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THE NEWSPAPER FOR CHATHAM, GILLINGHAM, ROCHESTER, STROOD, RAINHAM & DISTRICT



Issue No 114
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November 18, 2009

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HEALTH & BEAUTY

Top tips to help you feel good



VIOLENCE AT HOME ON THE UP

DOMESTIC abuse is on the rise across the county, new police figures have shown.

Kent Police statistics show officers received more than 20,000 reports of abuse between April 2008 and March of this year – up 569 cases from the previous 12-month period.

More than 3,700 incidents, including threatening behaviour, violence and sexual assaults, took place in Medway. This equates to more than 10 attacks each day.

The rise in domestic abuse – and how best to counter it – will be discussed at a police-led conference in Maidstone today (Wednesday).

BY SIMON ROBINSON

Guest speaker Ann Widdecombe MP said she hoped the multi-partner event would make a difference.

"Domestic abuse can affect men, women and children but often it goes unaddressed," she said.

"I hope this conference will highlight the dangers."

Kent and Medway Domestic Violence Strategy Group chair Ch Supt Lee Catling added: "It is not acceptable for

anyone to live in fear of being abused.

"The conference enables agencies to discuss their roles to develop an effective response across Kent and Medway."

During today's event the 150-plus delegates will discuss the complex relationship between domestic abuse and drugs and alcohol misuse.

Ch Supt Catling said: "Misuse of drugs and alcohol are aggravating factors and can make the abuse more unpredictable and severe.

"The impact of domestic abuse and substance misuse on family life is devastating."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



QUESTIONS FOR BROWN ON VISIT

Prime Minister Gordon Brown listened to the problems and concerns of Medway community leaders during a whistle-stop tour of the county.

Mr Brown met with the 14-strong group at Medway Labour party leader Paul Godwin's Walderslade home.

Each attendee was given the chance to put a question to the PM before he headed off to Maidstone for another meeting.

Earlier in the day he had visited Delphi Powertrain Systems in Gillingham.

FOR MORE TURN TO PAGE 5.

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Energy drinks 'could cause health issues'

BY SIMON ROBINSON

ENERGY drink-swigging teenagers are placing their health in serious danger, according to a drug and alcohol worker.

The stark warning was made by KCA intervention officer Zara Rahemtulla, who has become increasingly concerned with the effects the caffeine-rich drinks are having on the towns' youngsters.

She said: "I noticed a sharp increase in discussion about the problems associated with caffeine drinks and pills amongst some of the young people that I work with.

"Despite a careful search, I couldn't find much information about their effects, so we have developed a detailed briefing for our staff and other professionals to provide accurate information and clarify the risks involved."

Dozens of teenagers who have downed energy drinks or caffeine pills – mainly consumed as an aid to study or revision – said they had suffered health problems.

One 18-year-old said: "An overdose of tablets gave me diarrhoea, heart palpitations and made me really shaky."

A 16-year-old added: "I used to drink vodka and energy drinks together all the time but one night I just collapsed on the street, my heart was beating so fast and I was raced to hospital, I thought I was going to die."

KCA's director of research Neil Hunt urged youngsters to watch how much caffeine they consume.

He said: "When used as recommended, one energy drink or tablet is not hazardous for anyone in good health.

"Caffeine doses of 200mg or higher



CAUTION: Energy drinks can have unpleasant side effects if used to excess

can cause unpleasant symptoms such as nausea or headaches. Other symptoms can include an abnormal heart beat, anxiety, panic, overheating and dehydration. In rare cases, consumption of large numbers of caffeine pills has been fatal.

"People may experience a 'come down' effect after consuming stimulant drinks or tablets as their energy levels will quickly deplete, leaving them tired and irritable.

"Also, caffeine can react with some prescribed medicines. If you are taking medicines, it is advisable to consult your doctor about the safety of using energy drinks or caffeine pills."

With UK sales of glucose and stimulant drinks valued at £522million and market growth of 12 per cent in the UK last year, it is clear that their use is now well-established. Much of the time, this use will be harmless.

KCA's advice is not to exceed recommendations on packs of energy tablets and to be aware that combining energy drinks and caffeine pills can lead to excess caffeine levels that can cause unpleasant symptoms.

If you are concerned about your own or anyone else's use of caffeine, other legal drugs (including alcohol) or illicit drugs, call KCA Young Person's team in Medway on 01634 338640.

Young entrepreneurs enter dragons' den

THE Dragons' Den comes to Chatham today, with young entrepreneurs pitching their ideas to a panel of community leaders.

The Young Dragons Business Enterprise Project involves students setting up and running a social enterprise, with the panel's favourite being awarded a trophy.

South East Regional Minister Jonathan Shaw is one of the 'dragons'.

Others include Ray Laws who runs the Medway Inventors Forum and Stuart Ashenden, director of academic studies at the University of Greenwich. The event takes place at Chatham's Dockside outlet today (Wednesday) from 1.45pm.

Towns 'bucking jobs trend' in recession

MEDWAY is resisting the recession, according to business experts.

A conference last week heard that more than 2,100 jobs had been created in the area since April last year.

Medway Council's economic growth chief Jane Chitty said: "Medway is bucking the trend economically and retail is playing a major role.

"We are committed to helping retailers and shoppers during the recession and incentives, such as free parking on key Christmas shopping dates, are testimony to this."

Question time with service providers

A ONE-off Question Time event will be held in Gillingham next month.

The session gives residents the chance to grill representatives from the police, Kent Fire and Rescue service, the NHS and Medway Council.

Council chief executive Neil Davies said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the people of Medway to put their questions directly to the people running services on their behalf.

"Any questions we can't answer on the night will be responded to, where possible, within five working days."

The event is at New Brompton College, Marlborough Road at 7pm on Wednesday, December 9.




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Gorgeous George draws Trekkies to pantomime

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

DEVOTED Star Trek fans have snapped up tickets to this year's Central Theatre panto, starring Mr Sulu actor George Takei.

The sci-fi legend, who earned the nickname Gorgeous George in his stint on reality series I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!, has proven a big draw with theatregoers.

Central Theatre bosses said tickets were selling fast and that online bookings had been made from as far afield as Japan.

George, who will take on the role of The Emperor of China in this year's production of Aladdin, signed up to the show on the advice of fellow I'm A Celebrity... star Joe Swash, who led last year's Chatham panto cast.

He said: "I was back in England earlier this year and had dinner with Joe. He told me about the great experience he had and urged me to consider doing panto again."

"Joe raved about the wonderful audiences and the fun he had with the other actors."

"But I had no idea that fate would have me following right in his footsteps directly to The Central Theatre."

"Now, I will learn for myself why Joe was so enthusiastic about the Chatham panto, and I'm really looking forward to visiting Medway."

Playing the Emperor will be a royal treat compared to the horrors of the bush tucker trials in the jungle, and George will be watching this year's show in between rehearsals from the comfort of his dressing room.

George said he thoroughly enjoyed his time in the jungle.



WELCOME: Shaun Williamson and the rest of the panto cast will be waiting to greet George Takei, right

"The producers told me that no one 'of a certain age' had taken part in the show before, and that the month-long stay in the rain forest would be physically demanding," he said.

"Could I rise to meet this test? The only way to know was to do it. So, I boldly went where no one of 'a certain age' had gone before, and I'm glad I did!"

George stars in Aladdin from Friday, December 11 to Sunday, January 3.

Tickets start at £12.50 for adults and £8.50 for children, with group offers and early booking discounts available.

For further information, call the box office on 01634 338338 or visit www.medwaypanto.co.uk.



HAZARDOUS: A police officer points out safety concerns on the tractor which was stopped

Cracking down on scrap metal hauls

A DOZEN un-roadworthy vehicles were impounded during a day-long police crackdown on scrap metal offences.

The vehicles were stopped and checked at the Medway City Estate.

It comes after a recent spate of metal thefts across Medway and the rest of the county.

Of the 40-plus vehicles that were stopped, 12 were deemed to be un-roadworthy.

One was a tractor and trailer, carrying a full load of scrap metal. Both the tractor and trailer were taken off the road.

The driver of the tractor was summoned to court, as was the owner for allowing the tractor to be driven.

Two further motorists were fined £300 for carrying waste without a licence.

Sgt Emma Satherley said: "We wanted to send out a clear message that Kent Police in Medway is taking the theft and disposal of stolen metal seriously."

"There are people who carry large amounts of scrap metal without a licence and some of this could be stolen."

Tackling rise in domestic violence

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE
astating, particularly for children.

"They are victims too, as they see and hear abuse or sense tension. It's a mistake to think that children are unaware of what is happening in their homes."

Male victims of domestic abuse will also be represented at the conference.

Respect phonline co-ordinator, Ippo Panteloudakis, said: "Perpetrators and victims bring a wide range of issues and we need to find ways to meet their needs, prioritising safety and reducing risk."

"The dialogue between drug and alcohol workers and domestic violence workers needs to be strengthened and this conference is an excellent opportunity to share good practice and learn from each other."

Findings from a review of the British Crime Surveys revealed that 44 per cent of domestic violence offenders were under the influence of alcohol and 12 per cent affected by drugs when they committed acts of physical violence.

The National Domestic Violence helpline is 0808 2000247. The Men's Advice Line, specifically for men affected by domestic abuse, is 0808 801 0327.

Dispersal zone aims to tackle anti-social groups in centre

A TOWN centre dispersal zone has been put in place, giving officers the powers to move on loud-mouthed loiterers.

The zone will be introduced in Chatham on Friday for a month.

Officers will then be able to move on groups of two or more people if they are likely to cause shoppers and residents to feel intimidated, harassed, alarmed or distressed.

Chatham Central's neighbourhood policing boss Inspector Noel Stanley said: "We've been listening to residents who live in Chatham Central and issues of anti-social behaviour are their number one concern."

"We are committed to taking action on reducing crime in Chatham and this dispersal zone will help that considerably."

"I've been involved in dispersal zones in the past and they really do work. This initiative isn't just about moving people into another area, but it is about breaking up groups who are causing anti-social behaviour."

"We are expecting reductions in



anti-social behaviour and criminal damage and this action sends a clear message that this kind of behaviour will not be tolerated.

"We will move groups on if we believe that they have been causing, or are likely to cause, anti-social behaviour."

"We can also ensure that they do not return for anything up to 24 hours."

The dispersal zone is contained within the borders of City Way, High Street, Medway Street, Best Street, Chatham Hill, Rainham Road, Beacon Hill, Magpie Hall Road, The Ridgeway and Horsted Way.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Poppy appeal thanks shoppers for donations

GENEROUS shoppers at Hempstead Valley gave more than £12,000 to the Royal British Legion's poppy appeal in five days.

Veterans on the RBL stall handed out thousands of poppies and stickers last week and were overwhelmed with the response.

Cyril Firman, from Parkwood, who organised this year's collection, said: "Thanks go to Hempstead Valley, everyone that bought a poppy and all the helpers."

Chef Rick Stein cooks the books at Bluewater

TV chef and presenter Rick Stein will step out of the kitchen later this month to sign copies of his latest cookbook at Bluewater.

Rick, famed for his seafood cooking, will launch Rick Stein's Far Eastern Odyssey at Waterstone's on Monday, November 30.

Waterstone's cookery buyer Melanie Grewal said: "We're thrilled to be welcoming Rick for his first book signing here."

Four men arrested on Class-A drugs charge

FOUR Londoners have appeared in court charged with conspiracy to supply Class-A drugs in Medway.

Leon James, 33, of Palmers Green, Risti Mbu, 20, of Haringey, Michael Blackstock, 20, of Hornsey, and Djon Brown, 18, of Holborn, went before Medway Magistrates Court last Monday.

The men were arrested on Friday and Saturday in connection with allegedly selling heroin and crack cocaine across Medway from September of last year.

All men have been remanded in custody and will next appear at Maidstone Crown Court on Monday, November 23.

Meet Father Christmas at charity's festive fair

CHILDREN can meet Santa Claus at the Cerebral Palsy Care' Christmas Fair.

The fun takes place at the charity's Cliffe Woods headquarters in View Road from 1pm-4pm on Saturday, November 28.

A meeting with Father Christmas costs £2.50. Entry to the fair is free.

For more information or to enquire about having a stall, call the fundraising team on 01634 220330.

Ex-lover gets 18 years for knife attack

A SPURNED man has been jailed after stabbing his ex-girlfriend's new partner, leaving him just half an hour from death.

Jealous Peter Barton, 40, was sentenced to an indeterminate sentence of 18 years after being found guilty of the attempted murder of Sam Cook.

He was handed an indeterminate sentence of 18 years at Canterbury Crown Court on Thursday and told he must serve a minimum of nine years behind bars.

A parole board will then decide whether Barton is still a risk to the public before he is eligible for release.

The judge labelled Barton as "obsessive and jealous" and said he had "carefully prepared and planned the attack on Mr Cook".

The court heard that Barton had previously been in a relationship with victim Sam Cook's

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

girlfriend between 2005 and January 2008.

When the relationship ended Barton threatened to injure or kill any new man she met.

He reiterated this threat in November of last year, when his ex-girlfriend began dating Mr Cook.

Barton carried out his promise the following month.

On Monday, December 8, Barton left his daughter's house stating he was going to the shops.

Unbeknown to his family, he left the house with a double quilt and a knife.

Barton drove to his ex-girlfriend's house in a relative's car, waited for Mr Cook to leave and then followed him.

After parking the car in Alamein Avenue, Chatham, Barton pursued Mr Cook on foot.

He then plunged his knife into the



JEALOUS: Peter Barton stabbed Mr Cook

20-year-old's back as he walked along Walderslade Road, Chatham.

Barton then stood over his victim – who was bleeding to death – and pretended to call the emergency services on his mobile phone.

Mr Cook managed to flag down a passing police patrol car and was raced to hospital where he underwent emergency surgery.

The knife had penetrated his spleen, which had to be removed, and caused blood to build up between his lungs and chest wall.

Investigating officer Det Insp Gavin Moss told the court: "Sam's injuries were life-threatening and it is likely he would have died had he been found just half an hour later."

"Barton has remained unremorseful throughout this trial and I am pleased the jury has delivered this verdict. A dangerous man has been removed from our community."

Agreement gives go-ahead to riverside plan

WORK to build the first 600 homes on the Rochester Riverside regeneration site may begin next year.

The planned construction work comes after housebuilder Crest Nicholson, Medway Council and SEEDA signed a development agreement to press ahead with the multi-million pound scheme.

Contractors were due to start work two years ago but the plans were brought to a standstill by the recession and subsequent collapse of the housing market.

Medway Council leader Rodney Chambers said the agreement bodes well for the future.

"This represents important progress for Rochester Riverside in the face of extremely

difficult economic circumstances," he said.

"In this economic climate, our agreement with Crest is a substantial achievement."

Crest managing director Debbie Aplin added: "The signing of this agreement facilitates the ongoing design work with an anticipated construction start on site in 2010."

"We look forward to delivering, with our partners, this highly sustainable and vibrant addition to Rochester."

Rochester Riverside has planning permission for up to 2,000 homes, a primary school, hotels, offices, shops, cafés, bars, two parks and the riverside walkway and cycle-path, which opened last year – the first public access for 100 years to a mile of waterfront.



EMPTY: The riverside site may soon be developed

For more information on Rochester Riverside and Medway's 20-year, £6 billion regeneration programme, visit www.medwayrenaissance.com.

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INFORMAL MEETING: Prime minister Gordon Brown with MP Jonathan Shaw and head teacher Diana Keating

Prime minister offers support in local issues

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

PRIME Minister Gordon Brown met with community leaders during a whistle-stop tour of the county.

Mr Brown joined the 14-strong group at Medway Labour group leader Paul Godwin's Walderslade home at lunchtime, having earlier visited Delphi Diesel Systems in Gillingham.

After being introduced to the group – including teachers, sixth-form students and minority forum members – the PM fielded a number of their questions.

St John's CoE Infant School head Diana Keating asked Mr Brown if anything could be done to help save the school from closure, while All Saints Community project manager Linda Fiddymment called for more regular and assured funding.

After the informal meeting Mr Brown faced five minutes with the media.

On the topic of rail fares, the Prime Minister said: "I think the most important thing to say is that prices are linked to inflation and the Retail Price Index has not been going up."

"Fares could be kept at a similar level next year based on the fact that inflation is very low."

"Interest is low for homeowners and I think people appreciate that."

On the chances of Labour retaining its three seats in Medway in the next General Election, Mr Brown said he was confident the electorate would back the party's representatives.

"We've got great MPs in Medway," he said.

"We've been working very hard to get through this difficult recession: protecting services and at the same time creating new job opportunities and better local services."

With regard to the plight of St John's and Ridge Meadow schools – both earmarked for



closure by the Tory-run council, Mr Brown added: "We're trying to do our best with the Every Child Matters funding going up."

"There has been no directive from central Government to close schools. The council should listen to parents."

That announcement was well received by St John's head Diana Keating.

She said: "I told Mr Brown about our school and that the council wants to close us down."

"He said he would look into our situation, which will definitely help our cause."

"Mr Brown said some lovely things about teachers, it's clear he's very interested in education."

All Saints boss Linda Fiddymment also got to ask Mr Brown for assistance.

She said: "One of the major issues for us is funding. I told the Prime Minister about our work, the difficulty is raising the £100,000 we need each year and the need for long-term investment."

"Mr Brown said he would look into ways we can receive more funding at a local level."

Following the coffee meeting Mr Brown travelled to Maidstone.

He is believed to have been in a meeting with town centre manager Bill Moss and other representatives at the Town Hall to discuss the controversial Kent International Gateway.

yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Sisters' marathon efforts

TWO sisters have started a mammoth marathon fundraising mission with the goal of raising £2,800 for charity.

Jo and Denise Bunn plan to hold a bric-a-brac sale, quiz night, disco, raffle and numerous other events and activities between now and next year's London Marathon.

All proceeds will go to the Sense charity.

The sisters are running in memory of their friend Donna Newton, who died in a scuba diving accident in October. Donna had planned to run to raise money for Sense, but the two sisters will now run in her place.

Jo, who works as the All Saints Sure Start Children's Centre in Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, said: "We felt very strongly that we wanted to continue Donna's fundraising efforts."

The bric-a-brac sale is at Chatham Bowls Club in Palmerston Road from 10am to 1pm on Saturday, November 21.

Camels join festive parade

CAMELS will take the place of Santa's reindeer in the Pentagon shopping centre's traditional Christmas parade next weekend.

The desert-dwelling animals will be joined by two of the stars of the Central Theatre's pantomime production of Aladdin – Cbeebies' Phil Gallagher and Claire Huckle.

The parade starts at the Church Street end of the High Street at 11am on Saturday, November 28, and finishes at the Christmas grotto in the Pentagon.

Entry to the grotto costs £1, and all proceeds will be donated to Hands, a Rochester-based charity.

A very special constable

DEDICATED Jamie Gray has picked up the title of special constable of the year.

He was given the award after completing 860 duty hours in the past year, in which he made 27 arrests.

A total of eight Medway special constables were recognised for their hard work earlier this month.

Special constabulary co-ordinator PC Wendy Knight said: "We as a police service are really thankful to the special constables who give up so much of their spare time to assist Kent police in Medway."

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Will the French ever pay for Stack upset?

■ BY MARIJKE COX

PEOPLE and businesses that lose money because of Operation Stack could have a case for compensation against the French government.

That's the view of Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter who told delegates – including ministers and industry insiders – at a meeting on Tuesday that legal advice had been sought over the impact of French strikes on Kent and its economy.

The meeting at the House of Lords was part of a traffic campaign started by KCC to deal with problems on the county's roads.

During Stack the M20 is turned into a giant lorry park, causing hold-ups and traffic chaos in the area, with huge financial losses for business. Stack is mainly implemented due to French industrial action that blocks the ports, stopping lorries using cross-Channel ferries.

Blockading

Cllr Carter said: "The misery caused to tens and thousands of people affected by the strikes and the impact on businesses and travel plans should not be underestimated. The closure of Calais harms our economy."

It is estimated by the Federation of Small Businesses that blockades at Calais and the subsequent stoppage of crossings costs the UK haulage industry £1 million a day.

And with delays on deliveries and traffic problems caused by Operation Stack a further £500,000 is lost daily.

Cllr Carter said the French authorities could be in breach of EU rules governing the free movement of people and goods when they fail to take action against illegal strikers blockad-



STACKED UP: Operation Stack turns the M20 into a huge car park and has had an adverse effect on the Kent economy

ing French ports. This might mean businesses and residents affected by strikes could receive compensation for losses.

Cllr Carter said: "With the French authorities failing to take action against illegal strike action in Calais they are in breach of Article 28 of the European Commission Treaty. This means they could be liable for damages caused to people who are affected by the blockades. I have written to Lord Mandelson about it. Our Government needs to take this matter to the French Government. It's up to the Government to sort this problem out."

Business secretary Lord Mandelson has agreed to pursue the issue. Cllr Carter also called for a long-term answer to Stack.

"It is essential to find a solution, but we need to find the means to fund it," he said. "Charges should be imposed on foreign lorry drivers using UK roads, which would pay for infrastructure and a long-term plan to deal with Operation Stack."

"Thousands could be raised through this. Foreign lorry drivers already have an advantage over UK hauliers by filling up with cheap

er fuel before coming to Britain."

As part of KCC's traffic campaign, a formal complaint has been made to the European Commission to highlight the effect of strike action on the county.

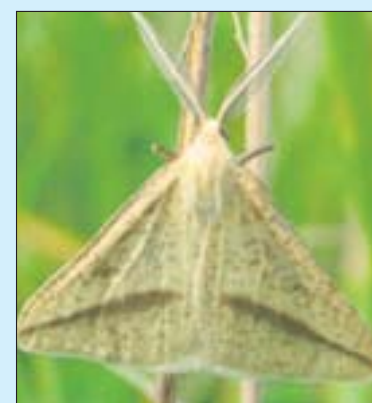
Further concerns were raised about the planned expansion of Calais port.

In 2007, about four million lorries passed through Kent via the Port of Dover and this figure is expected to rise by two-thirds over the next 30 years. This could mean even more HGVs parked on the M20 in the event of strikes. But Cllr Paul Watkins, leader of Dover District Council, said his authority was backing the Calais port plans.

"It is crucial for the economy of the UK and Europe that both the ports are able to gear-up to accommodate future growth," he said.

"In the face of an ever-expanding international market, if one is to grow, the other needs to keep pace if balance is to be maintained."

KCC is also pushing for a third Thames crossing to improve connections with the rest of the UK, and greater use of Kent International Airport at Manston in Thanet.



FIND: The straw belle moth is an endangered species

Rare moth the belle of the fall

A RARE moth has been discovered in the county.

The straw belle moth is already on the endangered list, so the discovery made at the National Trust beauty spot of Wrotham Water Farm is of global importance.

The Farm, near Trottiscliffe, has also revealed itself to be the home of other rare species, according to a new report.

Inspections by the Butterfly Conservation Trust revealed the presence of several species of rare orchids, bumble bees and butterflies.

The straw belle moth has been designated a priority species for conservation, meaning extra care must be taken in preserving its habitat to ensure its continued survival.

The area was used to grow wheat and barley, but in 1990 the fields of Wrotham Water Farm were 'returned to nature'.

Under the guidance of the Natural England's Countryside Stewardship Scheme, the National Trust was able to restore the chalk grassland by planting a rare grass seed mix and introducing a grazing regime to help the moth and other endangered wildlife thrive.

County Hall £200m budget shortfall to lead to 600-700 job losses

HUNDREDS of jobs will be lost over the next three years as Kent County Council struggles against a predicted £200 million funding shortfall.

Finance chiefs at County Hall are readying themselves for drastic reductions in the amount of money they receive from the Government, regardless of who wins the next general election.

About £42m of savings have already been identified from next year's budget, but a further £10m still needs to be cut – and between 600-700 posts will be axed.

KCC employs more than 40,000 staff.

However, the authority says it is confident the shortfall will not affect frontline services and the majority of jobs lost will be through natural wastage and non-replacement of staff who leave.

Any council tax increases should also be kept to a minimum and will most likely be below last year's rise of 2.4 per cent.

Cabinet member for finance, Cllr John Simmonds, said: "What's important is we haven't been idle and we've already saved £110m over the last three years because we always knew the gravy train was going to halt."

"It would have been foolish not to plan ahead

and we would be a terribly irresponsible authority if we said we will worry about it next year."

"The headline news looks alarming, but life isn't going to grind to a halt. By having foresight we can minimise the effects, and although it looks frightening on the face of it, we have the time to look at alternative ways of doing things."

KCC officers have been instructed to come up with cost-cutting proposals over the next few weeks, including a review of frontline services to see how funds can be spent more efficiently.

This is likely to result in a major staff reorganisation and a possible sharing of office

accommodation with other public sector partners like the NHS.

Cllr Simmonds said existing initiatives were already saving the authority cash, such as a permit scheme that prohibits utilities companies from digging up and subsequently damaging the roads without a licence.

He added: "The review of the front-line services is not for us to see what we can get rid of, but rather what we can use more efficiently."

KCC has an annual budget of £1.5 billion, but economists predict a 40 per cent cut in government support over the next three years.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

MARTIN CHIVERS



Q Tell us a little bit about what we can expect to be in the book.

A It's about my life in football, my career and the horrific injury I sustained at Spurs. There is a bit in there about my relationship with my former manager Bill Nicholson, but it covers everything I did in football.

It starts with me as a young ambitious player at Southampton. I wanted to get into the England team, but to do that I needed a bigger club. I didn't hesitate once I knew Spurs wanted me. The book then follows my move to Spurs, and the injury I suffered. My knee-caps basically disappeared up my legs. I was lucky I had a good surgeon as I was able to get back playing.

Q Once you had moved to Tottenham Hotspur, how did your football progress?

A I was lucky at Spurs, it was a big family. It was a great team and I was the one lucky enough to put the ball in the net and get the glory. It was a wonderful time though, as we reached four finals and two semi-finals.

When I arrived at Spurs, the team was full of great players. There were full international players, like Joe Kinnear, Mike England, Alan Gilzean, Jimmy Greaves and Martin Peters.

Q You still work with Tottenham now; do you think you will always be involved with the club?

A I'm in my 20th year at the club in hospital-ity now. It is my second home, my heart is

here. I enjoy being here, with the fans, so I can see myself being here for a long time.

Q You say in the book that you wrote to Southampton asking for a trial; how did that come about?

A My father was working in the docks down there. He came back telling me about an advert in the paper which was asking for trialists. I wrote a letter responding to the advert and went along to the trial game.

I scored four times, and by the end they had the papers waiting for me to sign. That Saturday, I was playing in the first team, even setting up the goal in a 1-0 win. But I wasn't that strong and in the next game against Chelsea, I was out of my depth. However, with a year of training I was able to improve.

Q You have said that Spurs is your second home; how do you look back at Southampton?

A They gave me my break, but I decided to better myself as a player, which meant moving to a bigger club, and Southampton seem to be let down by this.

They got me for nothing and got £125,000 and Frank Saul for me. That was a national record transfer fee and Frank was a good player. They shouldn't complain about me leaving.

Q Is that one of your biggest regrets then, how Southampton look back on you?

A Yes, I don't feel welcomed back to Southampton anywhere near like I do at

Tottenham. Bear in mind when I was playing for them, we got promoted to the First Division for the very first time in the club's history, but they only seem to remember that I left. I also left Spurs, but I feel at home there.

Q What would you say is the highlight of your career?

A That has to be playing and scoring for England. It is every young man's dream to play for England, and once you have done it you can say 'I've made it'. Alongside that, it has to be winning things in front of thousands of fans – it makes you treasure it even more. We won the 1971 and 1973 League cups, as well as the 1972 Uefa cup.

Q Who would you say are the best players you have played with?

A There are too many great players to pick any out. The whole Tottenham side was full of great players – it was a joy to be a part of it. I always played well alongside Alan Gilzean, he was a good strike partner at Spurs.

Then there is Pat Jennings. He was in goal for all my time at Spurs and you can't question how good he was.

Q Who is the player you most like to watch now?

A Jermaine Defoe is the most natural goal scorer we (Tottenham) have now. He is quick, has a great touch and scores goals.

Tottenham Hotspur legend Martin Chivers spoke to reporter **Mathew Beech** about his career, his autobiography, Big Chiv: My Goals in Life, and his book-signing at Bluewater's Waterstones store tomorrow

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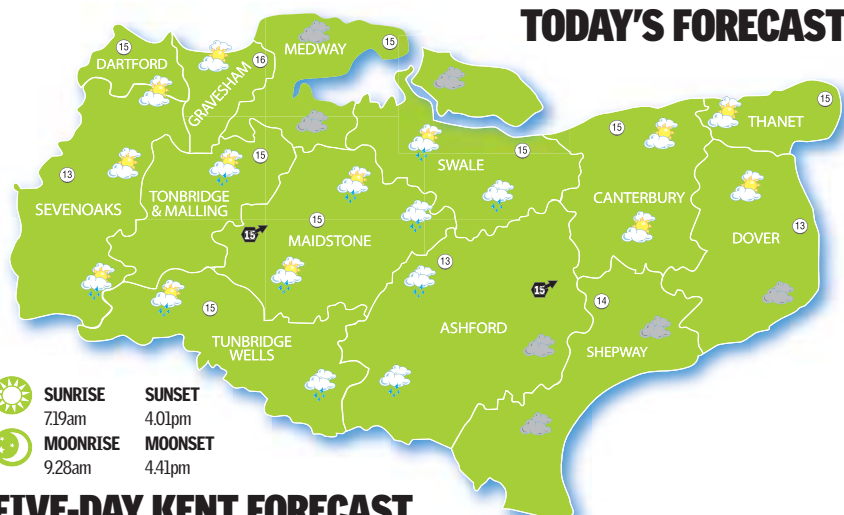
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WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	3:16pm	5.6m
	Sunday	3:55pm	5.4m
Dover	Saturday	1:28pm	6.0m
	Sunday	2:07pm	5.8m
Dungeness	Saturday	1:26pm	7.0m
	Sunday	2:03pm	6.7m
Ramsgate	Saturday	1:58pm	4.6m
	Sunday	2:37pm	4.4m
Sheerness	Saturday	3:06pm	5.4m
	Sunday	3:45pm	5.2m
Whitstable	Saturday	3:15pm	4.9m
	Sunday	3:52pm	4.8m

AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	11°C	Madrid	19°C
Athens	18°C	New York	16°C
Barcelona	21°C	Paris	15°C
Beijing	-2°C	Rome	19°C
Bombay	28°C	Sydney	30°C
Cape Town	24°C	Tenerife	26°C
Cardiff	12°C	Tokyo	16°C
Gibraltar	21°C	Vancouver	7°C
Hong Kong	15°C	Warsaw	8°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	16°C

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon		Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	13°C	Gravesend	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Canterbury	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C	Maidstone	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	13°C
Chatham	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C	Ramsgate	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Dartford	15°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C	Rochester	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Dover	13°C	13°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	Sevenoaks	13°C	13°C	14°C	13°C	13°C
Faversham	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C	Sittingbourne	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C
Folkestone	13°C	13°C	14°C	14°C	13°C	Tonbridge	14°C	15°C	14°C	14°C	14°C
Gillingham	14°C	15°C	15°C	15°C	14°C	Tun Wells	14°C	15°C	14°C	14°C	14°C

yourmedway NEWS IN BRIEF

Ex-soldier starts business with landmark 1K grant

A FORMER army sapper has become the first Medway resident to be awarded a £1,000 business start-up grant.

Peter Hegarty, from Gillingham, has pumped the cash into his fledgling company, T & M Property Maintenance.

The 38-year-old said:

"This business start-up grant will really help me get my business off the ground as it will help me afford the costs associated with setting up, such as marketing and administration as well as other expenses."

"Giving local people the help they need to start a new business is a really good thing to do during this difficult economic climate."



BUSINESS: Peter and his wife and partner Maxine

Medway Council's economic growth chief Jane Chitty said: "These grants will give people a real opportunity to realise their dreams and unlock their ambition."

"I am pleased that Mr Hegarty has been awarded his grant and wish him every success."

For more information on the Partners for Growth grant, call the council's economic development team on 01634 338138.

"Oh Yes!" It's Panto Time

LESLEY JOSEPH

as The Fairy Godmother

THE HILARIOUS **MATT SLACK** as Buttons

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MARTIN RAMSDIN & DAVID ROBBINS as The Ugly Sisters

WAYNE PERREY as The Prince

Cinderella

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Charity calls for adopters to think about benefits of taking on siblings



BROTHERLY LOVE: There is a desperate need for loving, adoptive parents who can keep keep brothers and sisters together

■ BY MARIJKE COX

A LEADING children's charity is urging people in Kent to consider adopting siblings as the number of youngsters in care soars to more than 60,000 nationwide.

Adoption experts at Action for Children said too many vulnerable brothers and sisters are being split up in the county as adopters opt to take just one child.

Carol Buckley, service manager at the charity's south east project, said there is now more than ever a desperate need to find loving homes and for vulnerable siblings to stay together.

Her message comes as National Adoption Week draws to a close and the nationwide figure of children in care reaches 60,900.

About 4,000 of those are waiting to be adopted. Ms Buckley said: "With such a high number of children entering care, the need for adopters is at an all-time high.

"To many, the idea of adopting more than one child can feel overwhelming.

"However, from our own work we know that with the right support, families adopting siblings can flourish. When siblings enter care together and all other family ties have been broken, it's so important that, where possible, we keep them together.

"To do this we desperately need adopters to consider if they think they could take on more than one child."

A lesbian couple who decided to take on two young brothers said it was the best thing they ever did and urged others to consider it.

Important

Ali and Kate, from Erith, who are both experienced teachers, adopted the boys, now nine and 11, six years ago.

Ali said: "Kate already had children from a previous marriage, but I really felt the need to have children of my own.

"The whole adoption process is long and quite intrusive, but I wouldn't want that to put anyone off.

"We came up against some barriers due to the fact we're a gay couple, which came as quite a shock, but in the end we took on two boys and they settled really quickly. It's been an amazing journey for all of us."

Ali said keeping the boys together was very important: "We found out they were originally going to be split up so they would be adopted immediately," she said. "It was so much better for them to stay

ADOPTION IN KENT

- On average 100 children are adopted in Kent each year.
- In 2008, KCC placed 90 per cent of children with a plan for adoption within 12 months of the placement order being given by the court.
- In Kent, 1,350 children who have been adopted since 1992, a third of these receive an ongoing service from KCC's adoption support and special guardianship team.
- There are more than 800 contact arrangements with birth parents and their children who have been placed for adoption. KCC promotes working in partnership with birth parents and new adoptive families to encourage contact.
- On average, 60 new adopters are assessed and approved each year. Assessment takes eight months and is extremely rigorous. Prospective adopters need to have demonstrated they have dealt with their own life issues before they can be considered.

together. One of the boys was slightly chaotic when he came to us and splitting them up would have made it worse.

"They still have memories of their mother which they talk about and they really need that."

Heart FM DJ Toby Anstis, can relate to Ali's story having been adopted with his twin sister as a child.

"I can't imagine life without my sister Kate," he said.

Difference

"We've had such a close bond since birth. Fortunately we were kept together when we were adopted. It's a special bond and understanding that has helped us come to terms with being adopted. It's so important that siblings are kept together."

Cllr Sarah Hohler, Kent County Council's cabinet member for children, families and education, said the team at KCC are on hand to talk people through the process of adoption.

"It is difficult to put into words the difference adoptive parents can make to the lives of children and young people," she said. "Similarly, those who adopt find having a family to be an enriching experience."

Call the KCC adoption team on 0845 330 2968 or visit www.kent.gov.uk/adoption.



UNDERSTANDING: Toby Anstis was adopted with his twin sister

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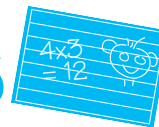
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BREAK TIME

Pharmacy trainee of the year thanks 'supportive' tutors

FAST-learning pharmacy graduate Anthony Samson has been named Tesco's pre-registration trainee of the year.

The ex-Medway School of Pharmacy student beat off rivals from across the country to claim the title, given to the employee who has shown the most dedication during the year-long training.



Anthony, who lives in Sittingbourne and spent his pre-reg year at Tesco's Sheerness branch, said his tutors had played a huge part in his success.

"They were simply the most supportive people I have ever worked with. I think of the students and staff at Medway as a big family – everyone banded together to make the School a success," he said.

"The help, guidance and personal support I received during my degree laid the foundations for my career."

Medway School of Pharmacy opened its doors to its first 80 students in 2004. Today it has more than 550 undergraduate and 100 postgraduate students, and runs a range of degree programmes for healthcare professionals.

Fashion show rounds off a celebration of black history

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

A FASHION and live music/show helped bring Medway's Black History Month celebrations to a close.

The day-long programme, held at MidKent College's state-of-the-art Gillingham campus, also featured a range of talks and workshops.

Guest speakers included the Mayor of Medway, Cllr David Royale, Paul Reid of the Black Cultural Archives and teenager Sabirul Islam, who at 19, has already launched his own successful website development company, worked as a London stockbroker and published two books on entrepreneurialism.

The college's human resources director Andrea Ashman said: "The celebratory event was the last of a range of activities that took place in Medway throughout October."

"Other activities included the Karva Chauth Festival for Indian Arts, Diwali, and a large selection of seminars and workshops."

"Black History Month has been celebrated in Britain for more than 20 years. It provides us with an important opportunity to highlight and celebrate the achievements and contributions of black people and black communities, as well as to understand the histories that shape them."

The celebratory event also marked the first birthday of Nubia magazine, a publication for Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities living in and around the Medway area. Launched during last year's Black History Month celebrations, the magazine aims to



CELEBRATION: Models showed off the work of BME designers and right, local singer Ebonie G entertained



inspire BME communities by celebrating their successes and achievements, and promoting community cohesion.

The magazine's founder Angela Asieba said: "Our aim this evening has been to engage, inspire and entertain by celebrating Black history and creating a forum for learning about and appreciating difference."

Former Medway schoolgirl Ebonie G brought proceedings to a close.

The ex-Rainham School for Girls pupil, who has recently completed a degree in Popular Music at the University of Southampton, said: "I'm extremely proud to have been invited to perform at this event."

"These celebrations are about inspiring more young people to achieve their dreams and be proud of who they are, whatever their ethnic origin."

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OFSTED 2008

yourmedwayblogger

Simon Robinson comes up with a novel way of cleaning our society of all crime with just one simple test



An instant end to crime while freeing up our motorways...

CRIME rates across Kent are on the decline, new police figures have reportedly shown.

This is undoubtedly good news and a step in the right direction. But while progress is slowly being made, I feel there is a pressing need to eliminate all criminal acts now.

This could be achieved instantaneously by locking up the UK's street-dwelling hoodies, savage granny robbers and other delinquents before they commit their heinous crimes.

This idea was introduced by author Philip K Dick in his 2002 collection of short stories *Minority Report*, later made into a sci-fi thriller, starring Tom Cruise.

The basic premise is that would-be criminals are identified, arrested and incarcerated before they actually strike, which comes as somewhat of a relief to the would-be victims.

Sadly, neither novel nor film are readily implementable: the film, for example, is set in the year 2054, in which three mutated

humans with precognition powers, known as 'precogs', lead the arrests.

What we need here in the relative Dark Ages of 2009 is a more low-tech equivalent.

Luckily for mankind, I have it.

All we need to do to eliminate all crime is to build a driving simulator, in which the 'motorists' are charged with the simple task of driving their 'car' along the motorway.

And anyone who chooses to limp along in the middle lane when not overtaking a slower-moving vehicle is taken immediately from the simulator and thrown in jail. Forever.

It's as simple as that.

It is an indisputable fact that all Middle Lane Drivers are criminally insane. Why else would they take up the middle lane when not overtaking?

It makes no sense. They simply must be future axe-murderers, faeces-throwing psychopaths and so forth.

The test would only take two minutes.

"OK Mr Smith, sit yourself down and when you're ready take the next left, a slip road on

to the motorway," the examiner would say.

"Rightio," thinks Mr Smith, "I'll just pull out. What a stroke of luck, there doesn't seem to be a single other car on the motorway.

"I think I'll take up the middle lane, thereby forcing anyone behind me to swerve across three lanes to overtake me and then again once they go past me.

"That makes perfect sense to me and doesn't affect any other road users."

At which point the examiner administers a swift baton blow to the back of Mr Smith's head and drags him off to the cells.

The beauty of the system is that everyone's a winner; residents get to live their lives safe in the knowledge that anyone who has interests on their belongings, plunging a knife into their chest or otherwise is locked up, the police force are free to pursue other interests and, more importantly, the motorways are free from thousands of dribbling, barely-conscious, selfish middle-lane driving idiots.

On top of all that, it might make a good film. Someone give Tom Cruise a call.

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LET US KNOW...

If there is a story in your area you think we should be covering contact the news editor, **Simon Robinson**, on 01303 817048 or email him on the details above. If you want to be the next Medway blogger then all you have to do is submit an article to us (of around 550 words) and email it to the news editor. And don't forget, for all the latest news and video from your town log-on to www.yourmedway.co.uk.

Write to The Editor, Yourmedway, KoS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

* We cannot guarantee all articles will be published and all are at the editor's discretion



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TALK TIME

PAUL PEACOCK

The Kent County Playing Fields Association secretary talks about the charity's work to provide and improve recreational facilities across the county.



Tell us a little bit about yourself.

I became secretary of KCPFA in November 2008. I enjoy all sports, particularly football and golf and am a life member of The Ridge Golf Club.

Tell us about the work the KCPFA does?

The KCPFA has been working with communities throughout Kent since 1926, when the charity was founded by the late Lord Cornwallis.

Its objectives remain the same today, to ensure there are adequate recreational facilities in every city, town and village in Kent, to fulfil this objective we encourage the provision, improvement, retention and use of playing fields, children's playgrounds and other recreational centres. We provide general grants and low interest loans to parish councils, sports clubs and other organisations towards the cost of buying land for example, or for the development of existing facilities.

We also have four memorial funds that provide assistance to young sportsmen and women.

What would you like to see the association achieve in the future?

We have and continue to 'help those who help themselves' but for too long have not shouted loud enough about who we are and what we do. I intend to raise the profile of the charity and in turn its membership and increase the turnover of funds so that more and more talented individuals, sports clubs and communities benefit.

• To find out more see www.kentpfa.org.uk, email us at kcpfa@hotmail.co.uk or write to The KCPFA, Cantium Lodge, Terrace Road, Maidstone ME16 8HU.

YOUR LETTERS



Haven't we learned from our history?

When Parliament debated the abolition of slavery in the 1830s there were those who argued that abolition would harm the economy, reducing profits and losing jobs.

The same arguments were used by some politicians in the 1850s, when we forced China to accept the opium trade (and effectively stole Hong Kong and other territories in reparations for China having sought to protect its citizens from the harm caused by the drug).

You would think humanity would have moved on from using the excuse that the creation of jobs was sufficient justification for causing appalling human misery, suffering and death, but not so.

Today many of the politicians including Tory Mayor Boris Johnson are using the same arguments to defend staggeringly callous and immoral behaviour. Despite the hard scientific evidence that climate change is already killing around 300,000 people per annum and, if



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NOT only can you use email and letters to respond to our stories, don't forget you can comment via our website too.

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unstopped, will result in the loss of hundreds of millions of lives, we still hear calls from certain politicians to expand aviation and other polluting activities.

It is simply unacceptable that people tolerate the barbarism, for

that is what calls to create an airport in the Thames Estuary (and other polluting activities) represent.

The science is now so clear that everyone must demand that all politicians act to reduce greenhouse

gas emissions. And, if we don't want to kill our own offspring, we are not talking about mere tinkering – we need cuts of around 95 per cent from advanced economies like the UK by 2050.

We all have a responsibility to challenge those politicians in power who seek to expand polluting activities and must ask them, in a totally candid way, to justify the utter misery and mass loss of life they are willing to accept.

Geoff Juby, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Candidate for Rochester & Strood, by email

Reasons for school closure are flawed

I am writing with my concerns in regards to the proposed closure of St John's Infant School.

I have one child at present at St John's and he is in year one. Before he started school he went to a large pre-school and after being there a year he hadn't made any progress with his speech and was not interacting with other children. When my son started at St John's he hardly spoke, couldn't write or read simple words, wouldn't mix with other children and tended to play alone.

He has had help from the special needs teacher and is now doing better than I ever expected him to in just over a year: he speaks fluently, mixes with other children, is reading books and so on. St John's received an outstanding grade for their Special Education Needs in the latest Ofsted report. I feel the fact it is a small school helps the children with special needs better than larger schools, as they have only one class per year

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and it is easier for teachers to give the children the extra help they need.

St John's is an outstanding school and my son has thrived there. If St John's closes in August I feel that it will set my son back and I don't want this to happen, the school has worked hard with my son and I can't see how he will do as well in a larger school just because their SEN budget will increase due to the closure of our school.

I am disgusted that the council are using SEN in the statutory notice as a reason for closure as this was never brought up throughout the consultation period or after. I also have three other children, two go to Balfour Junior School and the other is one year old. If St John's closes in August how does the council expect me to be in two places at once? Do the education bosses expect me to move my other children as well? Or is it acceptable for me to be late picking up children? The council are making parents disrupt not just the St John's children's lives but

other children as well. The statutory notice states that because of the close proximity of alternative schools, they expect the majority of children to still be able to walk to school. This is rubbish. I have phoned neighbouring schools and they have no places. The council uses surplus places as another excuse. Yes there may be high surplus places in other schools in Medway but not in the schools neighbouring St John's – they are all full. They want to close St John's to fill spaces in other schools that are at least 1.8 to two miles from the school and that is how far the majority of the parents and children will have to travel. St John's doesn't have the surplus places that cabinet say they have, our surplus places have dropped and we still have parents looking at the school.

These are my objections and I hope this time things are looked at properly as I believe the reason for shutting St John's is a sham and the proposal flawed.

Sonja Fensome, by email



Be in receipt of your rights

Again, someone has made the mistake of listening to the shop. Sales of Goods Act – your contract was with Comet, not Compaq, so any problems etc are for Comet to resolve, up to six years after buying the goods.

I purchased a large LCD TV from Comet, which failed after three weeks and they tried to give me the run-around. I finally spoke face-to-face with the manager and reminded them of the Sale of Goods Act. They plugged it in immediately, saw it didn't work and gave me a replacement. Their original answer was for me to wait in for an engineer to call and check the TV, give me a form and then return both to the store. Never again!

Colin, comment posted on www.yourmedway.co.uk

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yourleisure

Radio ha ha

One of the country's best known and most-loved DJs, Johnnie Walker, reveals all in his frank and funny show at The Gulbenkian Theatre, Canterbury

FROM the boat that rocked to meeting royalty, Johnnie Walker has become a national treasure.

One of the country's best known and most loved radio voices, Walker has always been a champion of music above all else. Spend an evening with Walker and discover how this frank, honest and funny

man became one of Britain's most enduring and popular broadcasters.

In the 60s Walker became the voice of a generation when he broadcast from the pirate ship, Radio Caroline, creating a night-time show that was essential listening for music fans everywhere. He attracted 86 per cent

audience and had a Europe-wide listenership of 20 million on the night of August 14, 1967, when Radio Caroline continued to broadcast even though Government legislation had taken all other pirate stations off the airwaves.

A move to BBC Radio 1 followed in 1969 and over the next seven years, Walker compounded his reputation as a DJ who valued the records he played far more than the sound of his own voice. His lunchtime show was a launch pad for new artists such as Steve Harley, Lou Reed, Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles and Steely Dan,

but Walker spoke frankly about those acts of which he was not a fan. Describing the Bay City Rollers as 'musical garbage' was one incident which, along with his determination to play album tracks as well as chart hits, led to conflict with his employers.

In 1976 he moved to San Francisco and continued as a radio DJ, by recording a weekly show which was broadcast on Radio Luxembourg. He returned to Britain in the early 80s and, after stints on local radio, rejoined Radio 1 to present The Stereo Sequence before moving to Radio 2 to take over the Drivetime slot. With more than 30 years of musical knowledge under his belt, it became an enormously popular show for listeners with discerning taste.

Walker was forced to take time off in 2003 while he battled with cancer, but returned to host the Drivetime show until 2006. He went on to present a Sunday show about spirituality and that year, he was awarded an MBE for his services to broadcasting.

The show starts at 7.45pm and tickets, which were selling fast at the time of writing, cost £16. Book online at www.gulbenkiantheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01227 769075.

JOHNNIE WALKER

Thursday, November 26
Gulbenkian Theatre,
Canterbury



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ROPEMAKERS

Wednesday, November 18
University of Greenwich,
Chatham Maritime

UNRAVEL the hidden lives of workers at Chatham Dockyard in the award-winning documentary, *Ropemakers*.

Written, edited, produced and directed by Prue Waller, the film brings the history of Chatham's fascinating landmark to life. With the voices and stories of local people, Waller has pieced together a vivid account of life and work at the dockyard. Central to many people's lives, the experience of working there is vividly recalled in *Ropemakers*, which was named Best UK Documentary at the 2007 Swansea Film Festival.

As well as exploring the work and lives of the rope makers, Waller also reveals



more about the wider organisation and social structure of the dockyard. She also sheds light on a bustling town where people could be working in various 'secret' areas and be completely unaware of each other's work.

The film will be screened in

the Wardroom in Pembroke Building at 7pm, as the final public Pembroke Lecture. Admission is free but tickets must be booked in advance – a maximum of four per booking – by calling 01634 883154 or emailing pembrokelectures@gre.ac.uk.

KASAI MASAI

Saturday, November 21
St Matthew's Church, Wigmore



tional rhythms to create a spectacular sound. Each member performed with leading African ensembles before moving to London in the mid-90s, a transition which made its own contribution to the band's music.

The band's name comes from Kasai, which is named after a river and lies in the heart of the rainforest, and the dignified tribe of the Masai, who still live a nomadic lifestyle.

The concert starts at 7.30pm and admission costs £7. Tickets can be booked by calling the box office on 01634 372508, by emailing mattsconcerts@hotmail.co.uk or by writing to 42 The Goldings, Rainham ME8 0AX. Entry is free for young people and students but seats must be pre-booked.

TRADITIONAL music from equatorial villages gets an urban twist with the sound of Kasai Masai.

A Medway audience can experience the vibrant sound of this captivating London-based band as part of the



ABBA FOREVER

Monday, November 23 to
Wednesday, November 25
Orchard Theatre, Dartford

TAKE a chance on Abba Forever and become a dancing queen when the top tribute band visits Dartford.

The Swedish supergroup's music has always been hugely popular, but demand for live renditions has soared since the release of Hollywood film, *Mamma Mia!* As a reunion of the original band is unlikely, Abba Forever is the next best option for fans to enjoy a spectacular live performance of their favourite hits.

The Live in Concert at Christmas show is the perfect way to get the party season started, with live vocals and music that are renowned for sounding uncannily like the original. Abba Forever's approach keeps classic hits like



Waterloo, Dancing Queen and Take a Chance on Me fresh and exciting, earning them standing ovations in Abba's native Sweden.

After eight years together, they have toured Sweden five times and each member has developed the sound,

style and mannerisms of their Abba counterpart.

The show starts at 7.30pm and tickets cost £18, concessions and group rates available. Book online at www.orchardtheatre.co.uk or call the box office on 01322 220000.

MEDWAY LEISURE

Xmas lights switch on will be a pantomime

CHATHAM will be lit up by Aladdin and Wishee Washee when pantomime stars switch on the Christmas lights.

CBeebies' Mister Maker, otherwise known as Gillingham-Born actor Phil Gallagher, joins his co-star Paul Burling and the Mayor and Mayoress of Medway to flick the switch at 5pm on Thursday. Book Aladdin tickets on 01634 338338 or at www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebooking.

Top violinist to perform for 40th anniversary

VIOLINIST Jeanine Thorpe will join the City of Rochester Symphony Orchestra for their 40th anniversary concert.

She will perform Walton's passionate Violin Concerto at the concert on Saturday. The concert will be held at Chatham's Central Theatre at 7.30pm and tickets are priced from £9 to £13. To book call 01634 338338 or visit www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebookings.

Brook your ticket to see Acoustic Strawbs

CELEBRATE a special anniversary when the Acoustic Strawbs visit the Brook Theatre in Chatham this week.

Folk fans should not miss the chance to see this highly talented trio in action on Thursday. The concert starts at 8pm and tickets cost £12 or £11 for folk mailing list members. Book online at www.medway.gov.uk/theatrebooking or call the box office on 01634 338338.

What's happening that you can tell us about?

WOULD you like to see your concert, production or event publicised here?

Send full details of your event – including dates, times, ticket prices and how to book – to jane.connolly@kosmedia.co.uk or by post to the address on page 2. Submissions should arrive at least two weeks before the preferred date of publication. If possible, include a good photograph to illustrate your event.

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Funk quartet set to light up stage at jazz event

■ BY SIMON ROBINSON

JAZZ supremo James Taylor is somewhat of a musical cyborg – part man, part Hammond organ.

It's difficult to know where the Rochester-born pianist stops and where the organ begins.

What I do know is that James and his three bandmates, who adopted the Ronseal-style fitting band name of the James Taylor Quartet – doing exactly what it says on the tin – have been wowing audiences for 15 years.

If top-notch musicianship, instrumental funk and mind-boggling solos are your thing, the band's pre-Christmas gig at The Farmhouse in Canterbury is definitely for you.

Farmhouse promoter Matt Gough said he was delighted to have the JTQ on the bill.

"There aren't many bands from Rochester that are renowned the world over for their scintillating live performances, but the JTQ are most definitely it.

From first single Blow Up right through to current releases, the band have been at the forefront of the live jazz circuit, recording for Acid Jazz in the 90s, and returning to their Hammond-led funk at the start of this decade.

"The JTQ come to life on the live scene, dispatching improvised solos amidst the tightest modern-dance grooves you could wish to hear.

"Without a doubt one of the most successful bands to ever come out of Kent, we're delighted to have them back for a performance in Canterbury following an absolutely incredible performance at Lounge on The Farm."

Between now and then, the Canterbury venue will stage four other live music nights, starting with Radio 1 DJ and chart-topping



JAZZ MAN: James Taylor, above, brings his quartet to The Farmhouse, where Kid Harpoon, right, will also play

producer Toddla T on Friday, November 27.

The following night Joe Lally – bassist in hardcore outfit Fugazi – will perform a number of stripped-down folk protest songs.

December sees a three-night Medway takeover, kicking off with superstar in the making Kid Harpoon's solo set on Thursday 3.

The Kid – whose passport bears the name of Tom Hull – is finally coming good, with new album Once providing the ideal stocking-filler.

Thee Waltons are next up the following night, before the JTQ take over on Saturday 5.

For more information visit www.thefarmhousecanterbury.co.uk.



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SPICY TREAT: Tortilla Army can be seen playing to the crowd on The Ether.



BOY BAND: McFly perform at the Rochester Castle Concerts this summer.



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- 4 Shelta – Beautiful Girl (from Bexley)
- 5 The Phalanxes – The Cure (from Herne Bay)

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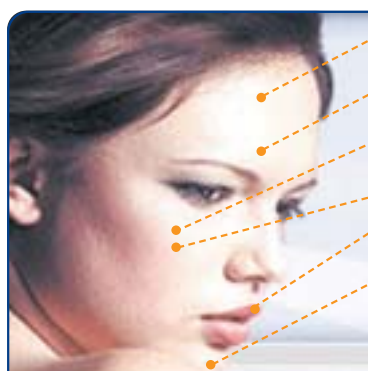
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yourmedwaystyle

Down to a T

Make a statement with a chic or charity T-shirt



MATALAN
Ladies Be Beau T-shirt, price £10

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Ladies' embellished T-shirt, price £32

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Men's Soul Cal Wings T-shirt, price £16.99

RIVER ISLAND
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ASDA

Ladies' Children In Need charity T-shirt, price £6

BURTON

Men's Movember charity T-shirt, price £15

BURTON

Men's Movember charity T-shirt, price £15

BURTON

Men's Movember charity T-shirt, price £15

DOROTHY PERKINS

Ladies' God Save The Queen T-shirt, price £30

MEDWAY SHOPPING

Skate over to Hop Farm for Christmas shopping

SHOP for gifts in an atmospheric setting as the Hop Farm hosts a traditional Christmas market.

The attraction in Paddock Wood is running the market village, which is free to enter, until Christmas Eve. Complete with a 65ft Christmas tree, the market will give shoppers the chance to browse stalls offering everything from toys to gift-vouchers.

The Hop Farm's ice-rink is also now open every day until Christmas Eve. Visit www.thehopfarm.co.uk.

You'll be so cross if you miss these celebrations

START the festive season in style as Westwood Cross near Broadstairs launches its Christmas celebrations.

On Saturday the shopping centre will host lots of family entertainment, including dancing displays, songs from Christmas shows and games on the main stage near the sundial from 2.30pm.

The Christmas Market will be open for business from Monday. Find out more online at www.westwoodx.co.uk, or phone 01843 867273.

Little Britain star kicks up a stink at Bluewater

LITTLE Britain star David Walliams will be paying a visit to Bluewater for two special reasons on Friday.

The comedian, actor and author will sign copies of his new children's book, Mr Stink, at Waterstone's from 4.30pm to 5.30pm. He will then make his way to Bluewater's Winter Wonderland to switch on the Christmas lights.

Mr Stink is illustrated by Quentin Blake and published by HarperCollins Children's Books, priced at £12.99.

Support local traders with a new Melocard

SHOPPING locally just became a lot more rewarding with the launch of the new Melocard.

Designed to help support independent traders, the card offers exclusive offers at more than 100 shops, restaurants and businesses in Kent.

The card, priced at £10, gives offers until March 2011 and can be bought online at www.melocard.com/getacard or at MeloSpot locations, which are listed on the website.

You can maxximise your shopping online

PICK up some Christmas bargains without leaving the comfort of your desk as TK Maxx offers online shopping.

With the same discounts of up to 60 per cent found in stores, the online shop offers a range of gift ideas for all the family. Men's toys, gadgets and electronics start at just £5.99, while gifts for the lady in your life cost as little as £7.99.

To avoid postal-strike worries, delivery is guaranteed within two days for a fee of £3.99. Visit www.tkmaxx.com.

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KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

A must have for every home Ewbank Evolution II Manual Carpet Sweeper

Ewbank have been producing non-electric carpet sweepers for over a century and their products are still regarded as the best in the world. This Evolution II manual carpet sweeper is no exception. Just as you would expect, it is lightweight and easy to use. It needs no electricity and is an easy and convenient way to clean your carpets and floors at a moment's notice.



The Evolution II is available in silver for £29.99 and makes a perfect companion for your vacuum cleaner.

Just £29.99

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Award Winning Company

KOS MEDIA READER OFFER

Brighten up your Bedlinen Sanderson Summer Breeze Bedlinen

Internationally renowned for home textiles and interior design, Sanderson, has created this fabulous bedding which is ideal for any home.

- Features a botanical design
- Brings a special lightness to your home
- Delicate movement of flowers and shadows caressed by a warming breeze
- Made from luxury, easy-care polycotton percale
- Features the floral print on the face and a faded polka dot print on the reverse
- Single set comes with one Oxford pillowcase; double, king and superking come with two
- 50% cotton and 50% polyester
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- 7355 Single with one Oxford pillowcase
- 7356 Double with two Oxford pillowcases
- 7357 King with two Oxford pillowcases
- 7358 Superking with two Oxford pillowcases

Price	rrp	Save
£34.99	£54.99	£20
£49.99	£79.99	£30
£59.99	£99.99	£40
£69.99	£119.99	£50



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ON GENERAL RELEASE

THE MEN WHO STARE AT GOATS (15)



George Clooney stars in *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, a deranged tale of US servicemen who are trained to become Jedi warriors, capable of killing with mind-power alone. Ewan McGregor co-stars.

MICHAEL JACKSON'S THIS IS IT (PG)



Hastily constructed from hundreds of hours of rehearsal footage, Kenny Ortega's documentary is a glowing tribute to the King Of Pop as he prepared for the most spectacular shows of his career.

UP (U)



The latest masterpiece from Pixar is an airborne adventure in the company of a cranky old man and an excitable young boy. The opening 10 minutes are among the finest Pixar has ever crafted.

Sir Michael goes back to his council-estate roots

■ BY KATE WHITING

PERHAPS it's due to his advancing years, or because he still thinks of himself as an inner-city boy with nothing to lose, but either way Sir Michael Caine is happy to be utterly candid.

Talking about everything from his pet-hates, UK taxes and box-office flops to all those remakes of his classic films, the 76-year-old actor Sir Michael is as open as they come.

But it is his childhood which is the focus of public interest as fans await the release of his latest film, *Harry Brown*.

Set on a council estate in south London's Elephant & Castle, not far from where he grew up, Michael plays the eponymous hero – a widowed pensioner living in a concrete high-rise who fights back when his only friend is murdered by a local gang.

"The film is a sort of wake-up call to people. I know what it's like because I come from there, but for people who don't know about it, we have now got into this circle of drugs and violence and killing. And if you don't do something about it, it's coming to a street near you."

Sir Michael was born to a cook and a fish-market porter and lived in a prefab council house, some 500 yards from the block of flats where he filmed *Harry Brown*.

"In that estate you see in the film, there's a plaque on the wall with me on it, a sort of dedication to me."

Any other actor might have been concerned about filming night-shoots in such a rough location, but Sir Michael felt very much at home among the locals.

"I had an incredible experience there. I worked there for weeks at night and I met all these guys and I became fascinated by them."



CANDID: Michael Caine is happy to shoot from the hip

"And I got a sense that we had let these guys down. It's all right to say 'These scumbags, they're knifing, shooting, killing, selling drugs', but they have no sense of direction."

"If you're a young man and you grow up in that atmosphere, you have to join a gang,

VIEW THIS PREVIEW

yourkenttv.co.uk



otherwise you're dead, or smashed to pieces if you walk around on your own."

Back in the 1940s, when Michael was a teenager, things were very different.

"There was violence, but not the kind you see today. Our drugs were alcohol and our weapons were boots and fists."

"I had a very tough father and a very tough brother and if anybody ever came to our house, they never came again," he adds, with a smile.

For all the hardship of his early years, Sir Michael remembers having two forms of escape, which helped to shape his future.

"One of them was the library – I'm still to this day an incessant reader – and the other was the cinema. If I liked a movie, I would go every day and see the same movie. You could just sit there all day. That was my escape."

HARRY BROWN
Certificate 18

YOU CAN WATCH ANY OF THESE FILM PREVIEWS OF THE LATEST MOVIES BY LOGGING ON TO LEISURE TV @ yourkenttv.co.uk

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3 shopping centres

3 great reasons to
shop in Maidstone

at Christmas





Gem stretch bracelet £25. Wallis.

For my Sister

Shoes £80. Faith.



Lift off rocket £35. Early Learning Centre.



9ct white gold Amethyst and Diamond pear shaped stud earrings £485. Fraser Hart.



Nintendo DSi £149.99 and Sony PSP go £224.99. HMV.



Large Cracker £30. Hotel Chocolat.

Walking in a



Gift Set £499. Goldsmiths

Ted Baker Shoe Cleaning Gift Set £32. House of Fraser.



Linea "Nostalgia" votives with garlands £12. House of Fraser.



MacBook from £799. Stormfront (The Apple Store).



For my Husband



Jewelled dress by Lipsy £70. Pink Flamingo.

www.fremlinwalk.co.uk

HOUSE OF FRASER ZARA TOPSHOP H&M OASIS WALLIS REPUBLIC FAITH JD ELC

Late night shopping every Thursday...

open til 9pm

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I can't wait to enjoy the festive events going on at Fremlin Walk this winter. I am looking forward to buying gifts from the Christmas markets, mingling with the panto stars from the Hazlitt's Snow White and Seven Dwarfs production and to the reindeer visits. Christmas time always means lots of events so I will be taking advantage of the late opening hours and fantastic shops to find the perfect party outfit and to buy any last minute presents.

Jaïne Rees, Fremlin Walk.



Benefit Glam Idol Set
£43.50. House of Fraser.

Soul Cal scarf
£9.99.
Republic.



iPod shuffle from £45, iPod nano from £115,
iPod touch from £149, iPod classic from £189.
All available from Stormfront (The Apple Store).

winter wonderland

Scruffy Puppy £15, Santa
Costume £10, Black Rubber
Boots £5.50. Build a Bear
Workshop.



Small Bauble Tree
£14 Next.



Top Gear Board Game
£19.99 Menkind.



Grey Scruffy
Bear £14.99.
 Clintons.



Cable Knit Socks £8
La Senza.



Bailey Button Ugg Boots
£159.99. Schuh



STORMFRONT HMV LA SENZA HOTEL CHOCOLAT WATERSTONES MENKIND BOOTS ORANGE

www.fremlinwalk.co.uk

... and then open late every weeknight
from 7 December

JANE NORMAN CLAIRE'S SCHUH FRASER HART JJB BOROS THE BODY SHOP BEAVERBROOKS MILLETS PUMPKIN PATCH

IV Your Christmas Shopping Guide at Maidstone Shopping Centres

M
the mall



NEW Continental City Collection. Paris 345g Contains 28 chocolates. £11.99. 695g Contains 56 chocolates. £19.99. Milan 350g Contains 28 chocolates. £11.99. Thorntons.



DS Lite Red with FIFA 10 + Accessory Pack (Dsi and DS Lite Game Station).

Oil & Vinegar Rack £16. BHS.



Christmas Mug £25. Candy Bouquet.



Black Luxury Faux Fur Christmas Shrug from £13.99 Christmas Satin Overspot Dress from £15.99. Adams.



£15.00. Card Hall.



Pink Leopard Print Clutch. £6. Peacocks.

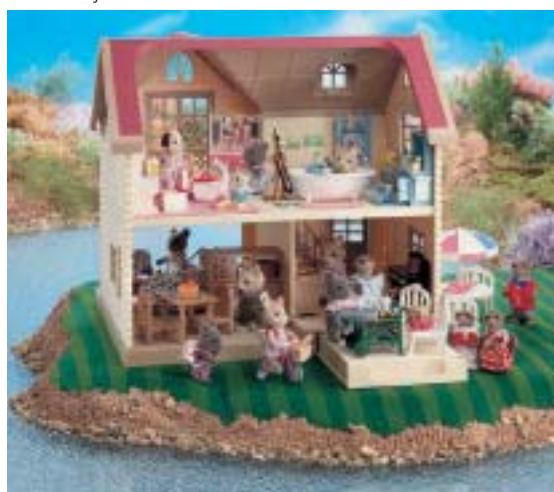
for my best friend

All I want



Party season offers. 2 pairs for £99. (Above 94738, below 103111). Vision Express.

The Sylvanian Families Lakeside Lodge. Was £59.99. Now Only £29.99. The Entertainer.



Colourworks Vanity Case. £24.99. Superdrug

Sequin Dress. £35. New Look.



Bingo Crackers 8 per pack. £6.50. Wilkinson.



Calvin Klein Eternity Moment EDP Spray 100ml. RRP £54.81. Offer Price £19.99. (Offer runs from 7 Dec - 27 Dec). The Perfume Shop.

Le Femme Shoe Time Holland & Barrett Envi T-Mobile Bag etc Clintons Shoo Mobile Street Glamour Pop Now
Christmas Kingdom Priceless Vodafone Optical Express Diamond & Pearls Ann Harvey Bon Marche Samantha's



I am really looking forward to this Christmas we have a great new Grotto with little elves and the ever popular giving tree is back for it's fifth year. However, I have had lots of fun checking out all the great things here in the Mall for Christmas top of my list is the Morph Desk Buddy just £4.99 from Hawkins Bazaar.

Suzie Brindle, The Mall Chequers.



Oliver Weber swarovski crystal pendant and bangle gift box £55 (half price sale price).
H Samuel.



Phoenix 3 Channel Mini Heli with Metal parts. £24.99. Model Zone.



Chenille Placket £24.99. Blue Inc.



Morph desk buddy £4.99. Hawkins Bazaar.



Find seasonal treats at Poundland.

for Christmas



Sony Walkman NWZS-545. £119.99. Sony Centre



Black and gold jacquard dress. £50. Miss Selfridge.



Great for Dad

No7 For Men personal grooming gift. £25. Boots.



Olympus E-600 Digital SLR Camera. £549.99. Currys Digital.

Black Buckle Cuff Shoes £55. Bronze Foil Straps Shoes £40. Crackle T-bar Shoes £32. Rainbow T-cuff Ankle Shoes £35. All Next.



The Mall Gift Card



The new Gift Card from The Mall is the perfect gift for everyone. It can be used in any store*, in any of our 20 Malls throughout the country. Purchase the card from the Ask Me point or Customer Service Desk. You decide how much you want to give and can pre-load the card with up to £1000.

Make giving the Spend Me card even more special by wrapping it in our gift packaging, ideal for any occasion. We have 5 different gift packing options including: for Christmas, for birthdays and to say thank you to someone.



Simon Carter, England.
Aspirin Collection £32.
Raffles.



Simon Carter, England.
Luggage collection.£110.
Raffles.



'Frosty Leeds Castle' by Malcolm Hide on canvas £195. Leaf Gallery.



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healthy goodies
from Health
Matters. Hampers
made to order.



Rubens Dolls - Very soft
handmade dolls from
Sweden - prices range
from £22 - £40.
Pregalicious.



Twinkle twinkle



Bravado Nursing Bra
Set; Bra £35 , Briefs
£18 also available in
French Vanilla. (Good
gift idea to allow a
nursing Mum to feel
sexy!). Pregalicious.



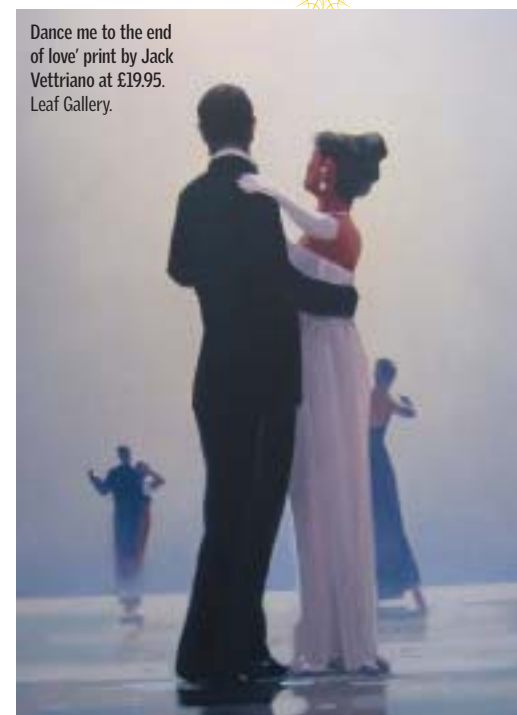
Simon Carter England Diamante col-
lection cufflinks £45. Raffles.

Perfect for
my son



Lady Heart Collection.
Ring diamond weight 0.52ct.
Necklace - 0.77ct. Kilburn's.

Dance me to the end
of love' print by Jack
Vettriano at £19.95.
Leaf Gallery.





I am really excited to be working with the Heart of Kent Hospice this Christmas. Teams from the worthwhile charity will be running the Royal Star Arcade's first ever Santa's Grotto - which is going to be great fun for the children and all the proceeds will go towards helping the hospice. I'm also looking forward to having live music and dancers in the centre every Saturday to keep our shoppers entertained while they are searching for the perfect gift. The Royal Star Arcade is ideal for people who want a stress-free Christmas shopping trip as we have lots of different independent stores all under one roof.

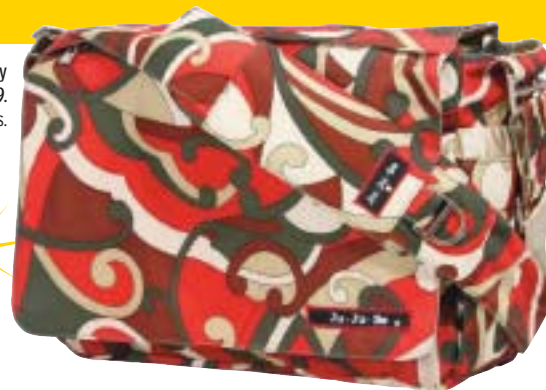
Lyne Perriam, Royal Star Arcade.



Boxed sets of 2 cups £12. Upstairs Showroom of Sia Christmas Decorations and gifts. The Oyster Box.



Ju Ju Be funky changing bags £79. Pregalicious.



Lilliput Lane 'Let It Snow' £16.95. The Oyster Box.

Mum would love this

Fabulous collection of party wear for all ages and is suitable for proms and other special occasions, not just for weddings! Berketex Bride.



little star



Vintage clock £8.99. Merchant Chandler.

Roccoco gilded mirror £39.99. 100's of gift ideas for the coming Christmas season. We also have 100's of great value stocking fillers to help make your present buying so easy. Merchant Chandler.



Willow Tree Nativity £68. The Oyster Box.



I would like

Heart shaped diamond set 0.32ct. Kilburn's.

Leaf

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Monsoon

THE OYSTER BOX

Pregalicious

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See Santa and his Real Reindeer

November 28,
December 5,
11am - 4pm



fremlin walk

The Giving Tree

November 14 -
22nd December

Donate a gift this
Christmas and make a
child in our community
very happy.



M
The Mall

Santa Arrives!

November 21

Grotto open. Being run by the Heart
of Kent Hospice. All proceeds to
HOKH. Post your letter to Santa.
Music, dance. Festive fun.



Royal Star

Meet Santa

Nov 14 - 24 Dec, 10.30 - 3pm

Meet Father Christmas
daily. All proceeds will
be donated to local charity.
Call 01622 756866
for further information.



M
The Mall

Scalextric Fun

November 27 - 28

Join in the fun outside
The Entertainer where
there will be a large
Scalextric track to try
out those racing skills.



M
The Mall

KCC Craft Fayre

December 3

10 - 3 pm. Great gifts
for all the family,
all under one roof.



Royal Star

Mulled Wine & Christmas Choir

December 3, 5pm onwards

Warm mulled wine, mince pies and
the sounds of a Dickensian
Christmas Choir provide a
relaxing backdrop to festive
late night shopping.



fremlin walk

Carol Singing

December 1 - 20

Ten local charities perform. The charity
that raises the most will win The Mall's
'Carol Factor' Competition and
have their donations
matched by
The Mall.



M
The Mall

Friars of Aylesford

December 5 - 23

Pottery from the Aylesford
potters, Christmas cards,
and various Christmas gifts.



Royal Star

Festive Fun

December 19

Festive fun in the Arcade
with magic, dance,
music, mulled wine,
mince pies, carol
singers. Come and
see the reindeer.



Royal Star

Festive Italian Market

December 11 & 12, 9.30 - 5.30pm

Stalls filled with delicious Pannetone and other
traditional Italian Christmas dishes line the Walk as the
centre's popular continental market returns on Friday
and Saturday. Father Christmas will also be visiting and
entertaining younger guests.

fremlin walk

Christmas Market

December 17-20

Christmas market stalls selling crafts
and delicious festive foods will fill the Walk.
Father Christmas will also be visiting
so don't forget your list!



fremlin walk

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FOR EVERY
READER*



foodforkent.co.uk

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Offer valid for Christmas pre-orders over £100 between now and 30th November. Deliveries will be between 21st - 24th December as convenient. When choosing which offer you would like simply type in the promocode at the checkout stage, "**KOSXMAS**" or "**KOSTEN**"

yourmedwaytimeout

YOUR TV REVIEW

■ BY TOM BETTS

-  **THE APPRENTICE USA**
BBC One, 11.20pm, 12.05pm, Monday
-  **JAMES MAY'S TOY STORIES**
BBC Two, 9pm, Tuesday

MY fans (there a couple of you out there, right?) will remember earlier this year I wrote that David Dickinson's hair – that monster salt and pepper bouffant – should require a licence.

Well, compared with Donald Trump's strange 'do, David's looks positively normal.

Whatever it is on the billionaire's bonce, I don't think it's natural.

Whether it's a weave, one hell of a comb over, a hair transplant or just a good old-fashioned rug, it's a miracle of modern engineering.

He'd be better off bald, for certain, but I guess having all that money can lead you to believe anything is possible.

The style is available for inspection on The Apprentice USA, currently running on BBC One.

As a programme it's far too brutally edited and sensationalised to be credible, but this double-bill is trashy beyond belief and entertaining enough to keep me awake until late on Monday nights.

It's highly addictive and the candidates happily knife each other in the back to climb the greasy pole, with a spot working for the main man the prize.

Trump commands the screen whenever he is on, and his little 60-second segments of business advice such as "be a team player" are the most obvious statements ever made, yet they are drilled home as though he was the only one to ever have that thought before.

Rocking a silly haircut all of his



A BIG KID: James May returns to his childhood on a grand scale with his BBC Toy Stories show

own, James May is filling his Top Gear's off-the-box time with his rather jolly effort, James May's Toy Stories.

In every hour-long episode the petrolhead grapples with a much-loved toy of yesteryear, such as Lego or Meccano, to produce something mega and odd.

In recent episodes he has built a garden made entirely out of Plasticine, which he exhibited at the Chelsea Flower Show, and a giant Airfix-style Spitfire with the help of children.

Despite their initial sneering at something that isn't an iPod or Nintendo DS, most of them looked like they'd never had so much fun.

What I like about May, much more than his Top Gear colleagues Clarkson and Hammond, is he's that little bit more laid back, whereas the other two just come across as trying too hard to impress.

Bumbling around trying to convince people that the old toys were the best is a perfect fit for his persona and, at the risk of sounding like my dad, you may even learn something.

YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

ENLISTING the aid of a legal professional may be the best way to cut through a lot of red tape. Although you hate spending money on this sort of thing, it's better than taking matters into your own hands. A good friend could invite you along on a business trip.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762



TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21)

YOU could meet someone special soon. Keep your eyes open for a free-spirited foreigner. Although the two of you are quite different, you balance each other nicely. The object of your affection appreciates your earthy sensuality, while you enjoy their fun-loving ways.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753



LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

AN expert could show you some valuable tips for improving your creative work. Be willing to experiment with this technique, even if it seems counterintuitive at first. An oppressive colleague will try to dampen your spirits. Don't let their gloomy predictions break your stride.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756



SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

YOU could be offered an assignment that requires you to work behind the scenes. Although you hate giving an executive the credit for your labour, it's the fastest way to put more money in your account. If you see a person getting abused by the power structure, speak up on their behalf.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759



PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20)

SWITCHING industries could result in a pay cut, but this is just a temporary situation. Pretty soon, you'll get bigger and more lucrative job assignments. It's just a matter of paying your dues. If you have any bright ideas for saving money, present them to your boss.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763



GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

NOTHING is more satisfying than getting paid for work you enjoy. Don't be surprised if someone approaches you with a business contract. If you've been struggling with a relationship, this would be a good time to talk to an old friend who may be able to help you see things in a new light.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754



VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 23)

SOMETIMES it feels like a relationship is based on what you can buy, instead of your worth as a person. Part of the problem is your impulse to earn people's affections. See what happens when you sit back and let a relationship take its course without any interference from you.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757



SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

PEOPLE admire your 'can do' attitude and may ask you to take the helm of an important project. The secret to your success is your fair treatment of workers. You don't ask anyone to do work you aren't willing to do yourself. Nobody could accuse you of playing favourites, either.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760



ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20)

A BUSINESS or romantic partnership will put you on the road to adventure. Beware of pressuring a youngster into doing something they don't want to do. By honouring their boundaries, they will eventually summon the courage to take a chance. Until then, respect their wishes.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aries** 09067-531752



CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

WORKING from home will help you keep an eye on a sick relative. Ask your boss for special permission. If such an arrangement is not possible, you may want to take some time off. Your nurturing capabilities will speed the healing. A romance could hit a bump due to money.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755



LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

YOUR air of authority prompts other people to put their faith in you. This is a wonderful time to make a bold proposal. Fund-raising activities are also favoured. If you've had your eye on someone special, now is the time to make your move. It will be difficult to resist your charms.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758



CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

A BUREAUCRATIC institution can help you up the ladder of success. If you're looking for work, you may want to apply to government agency, hospital or university. The experience will be invaluable. You'll also enjoy the stability and good benefits such an employer affords.

• To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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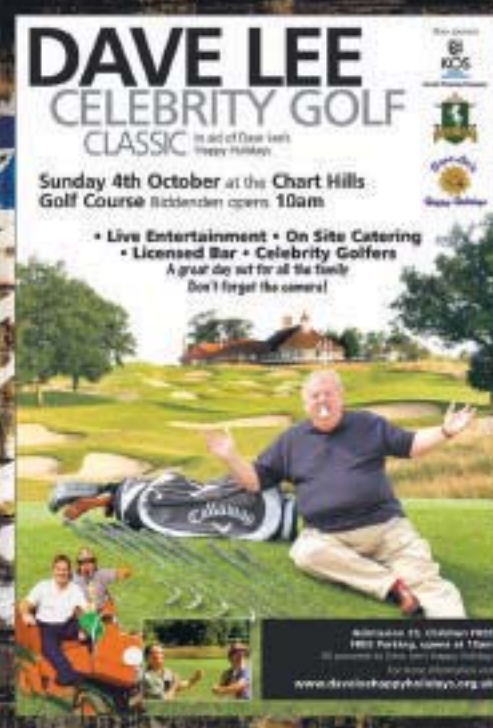
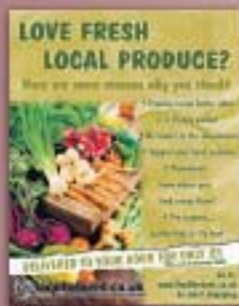
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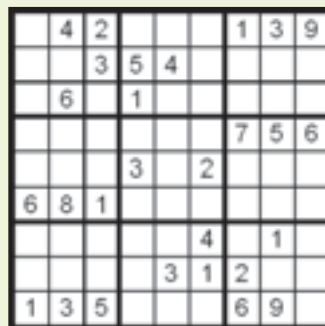
CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No114

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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

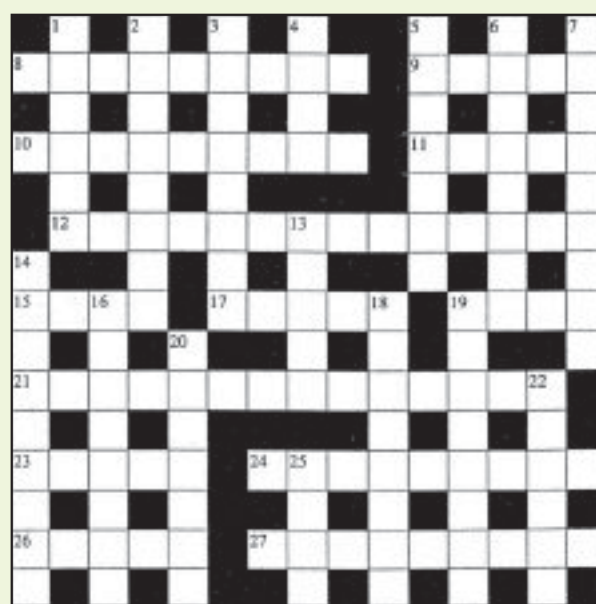
ACROSS

- 8 Purge out being mostly innocent inside old entrance (9)
 9 Extreme characters going by the water that's blue (5)
 10 Formerly simultaneously (2,3,4)
 11 Man said to assume a praying position (5)
 12 Making the first attack after a spell, it's an attractive way of trying to get what one wants (5,9)
 15 The man to get by (4)
 17 It's liquid tending to flow (5)
 19 Streak from vine (4)
 21 Continental water? (9,5)
 23 Savage hesitantly entered Cornish river (5)
 24 Speed that could be injurious (9)
 26 Hooded bird? (5)
 27 Because of engineers entering new assault (2,1,6)

DOWN

- 1 Was to do with the ear? That's outlandish (6)
 2 Daughter inside hurried up in landing-place in a dilemma (8)
 3 Urge race official with hourglass (3-5)
 4 Team leader entered total of partly fermented wine (4)
 5 Support gambling (7)
 6 Young June with live performance (8)
 7 Healthy state despite shocking binge after spring (9)
 13 Most of money soldier had for mushrooms (5)
 14 Start removing crossing-place in North London (9)
 16 Bachelor having awful bother with loose garment (8)
 18 Freeholders' money Ray changed (8)
 19 Capitalists from Austria (8)
 20 Plain sort of chocolate (7)
 22 Delightfully found one in North Carolina cathedral city (6)
 25 Some citrus (kiwi) fruit in biscuit (4)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

- 8 Shoulder-piece (9)
 9 Brume (anag.) (5)
 10 Physically big and strong (4-5)
 11 Oscillate (5)
 12 Prophesied (14)
 15 Residence (4)
 17 Electronic message (5)
 19 Joke (4)
 21 Of birds (14)
 23 Prizefighter (5)
 24 Foyer (9)
 26 Raced (anag.) (5)
 27 Subdue (9)

DOWN

- 1 Maintenance (6)
 2 Use a levelling machine (8)
 3 Series (8)
 4 And elsewhere (2,2)
 5 Clump of grass (7)
 6 Wormwood liqueur (8)
 7 Stiff coldness (9)
 13 Undersized (5)
 14 Reversion (9)
 16 Carbon ____ (8)
 18 Bandage (8)
 19 Foot and knee covering (8)
 20 Cook rapidly in a pan (4-3)
 22 Quietened (6)
 25 Jealousy (4)

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LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No113

EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No113

ACROSS: 1 Aquarius 6 Beside 9 Kismet
 10 Buttriss 11 New departure 13 Sloth
 14 Steadfast 17 By-product 19 Fleet
 21 Kitchen-range 24 Ferocity 25 Rookie
 26 Sneeze 27 Naked eye. DOWN: 2 Quip
 3 Axminster 4 In town 5 Subject 6 Betrayal
 7 Sprat 8 Distressed 12 Clay-pigeon 15
 Falsehood 16 Adhesive 18 Carry on 20
 Anorak 22 Crone 23 Tiny.

QUICK SOLUTION No114

Stirry 22 Lulled 25 Envy
 Monoxide 18 Lignite 19 Jackboot 20
 7 Friggidy 13 Small 14 Throwback 16
 Sequence 4 Et al 5 Tussock 6 Absent
 3 Sequence 4 Et al 5 Tussock 6 Absent
 Overpower. DOWN: 1 Uplink 2 Bulldoze
 23 Boxer 24 Vestibule 26 Cedar 27
 Home 17 Email 19 Just 22 Ornithological
 Well-built 11 Swing 12 Prognosticated 15
 ACROSS: 8 Epaulette 9 Umber 10

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website

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Ditch the diet for beer and chips

BY SHARRON LIVINGSTONE

IT'S fun to go off the beaten track sometimes, but if all you want is a brief, indulgent break, then the city of Bruges will release your inner lip-smacking, camera-swinging, beer-swilling, sight-seeing, chip-guzzling, chocoholic tourist.

Bruges is home to just 20,000 people, yet more than 3,000,000 tourists visit each year.

It may be the canals that flow beneath flower-decked, arched stone bridges, or the quaint cobbled streets. Whatever the reason, this ancient city – just a short hop across the Channel – exudes romance from every nook and cranny.

Once there, take a 20-minute canal boat trip for an orientation tour.

Alternatively, relax in one of the alfresco cafés on Market Square and enjoy the clip-clop of horses' hooves. If you have the energy, climb the tower's 366 steps to enjoy the views.

Nearby Burg Square has the city's most striking architecture. A Gothic town hall with lacy white stonework nestles next to the old Public Record Office, built in Renaissance style, and beyond it is the neo-classical former Court of Justice and the Gothic/Renaissance Steeghere, whose porched entrance leads to the Basilica of the Holy Blood.

If you crave culture, pop into the Groeninge art museum (12 Dijver). Inside is an impressive display of Flemish art from the 15th century onwards. The nearby Gruuthusemuseum (17 Dijver), a former medieval merchant's house, has an interesting collection of tapestries and musical instruments.

Beer-drinking is part of the social fabric of Belgian life and it would be churlish not to



LOCAL FLAVOUR: Enjoy a beer and the clip-clop of horses' hooves as you relax in elegant Market Square in Bruges

visit Bruges's last remaining brewery, De Halve Maan (at Walplein 26; www.halvemaan.be), where a 45-minute tour (5.5 euros) ends with a glass of the house beer.

You could also visit one of Bruges's most popular beer bars, Brugs Beertje (Kemelstraat 5; www.brugsbeertje.be). There are more than 300 beers, including sickly-sweet fruit beers and a selection from small Flemish breweries.

Leave room for the sublime Belgian chocolates. Within walking distance of the centre, there are a staggering 40 chocolateries with enticing shop windows choc-full of pralines, figurines, sweets and slabs.

Dumon (Simon Stevinplein 11 www.chocolatierdumon.be) has a small café where you can enjoy a glass of hot chocolate, and the Chocolate Line, where chocolate is not only for eating and drinking... it's for inhaling, too.

There is a chip museum, but I would miss that in favour of the real things at a friterie. This is true Belgian street food, made with Mirabelle potatoes served in a carton, with wooden fork and a dollop of mayo or ketchup.

You can get any type of cuisine in Bruges, but for a superb feast of Flemish food make a bee-line for De Vlaamash Pot (the Flemish Pot) at Helmstraat 3-5. Plush red walls, ornate chairs, gold trimmings and chandeliers set the scene.

Cheese croquettes, asparagus in a sublime butter-and-egg sauce, and my personal favourite, waterzooi – a dish of white fish served in a creamy soup – are all on the menu.

A word of warning, though: Bruges is all about indulgence, so ditch the diet and prepare to dabble with debauchery, otherwise you'll feel you're missing out.

FACT FILE: BRUGES, BELGIUM

Time difference	+One hour (GMT)
Language	Dutch (English widely spoken)
Currency	Euro (approx 1.1 to £1)
Religion	Catholic
Population	20,000

Getting there

Bruges is just 90 minutes' drive, and 72 miles, from Calais.

Sharron Livingstone was a guest of P&O Ferries, which offers 24 daily crossings between Dover and Calais from £30 return for a car and up to nine passengers.

See www.poferries.com

For further information on Bruges, go to www.visitflanders.co.uk, or phone Tourism Flanders-Brussels on 0207 307 7738.



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PROPERTY NEWS



Kings Hill cottages that have a feel for tradition

COTTAGES being built by Hillreed Homes in West Malling are being created in a traditional style.

Developers say they take owners 'back to basics' in terms of quiet lanes and attractive exteriors of different homes at the Kings Hill site.

Internally, they tick all the boxes for modern-day living, being eco-friendly properties with excellent insulation and low-cost maintenance.

Building is just commencing, with the first homes expected to be in the spring. Currently, there are opportunities to buy at 2009 prices.

The Hillreed Homes website, www.hillreed.co.uk, has a full list of prices and images.

The price of a farmworker's cottage is £259,950. This is for a three-bedroom, semi-detached house with parking.



'Property millionaires' hit by slump in market

THE recent slump in the property market has had a marked effect on those who have made a fortune through owning homes.

Research from Zoopla.co.uk, the online property website, has revealed the extent to which property millionaires in the UK have suffered since the housing market peaked in autumn 2007.

According to the website, the number of million-pound properties in the UK has dwindled by more than a third since the downturn, despite the recent turnaround in property values.

Alex Chesterman, the founder and chief executive of Zoopla.co.uk, said: "The housing-market downturn has taken its toll on the exclusive property millionaires club, reducing the number of those who can claim membership from 283,168 in November 2007 to only 183,630 today."

Broadband speed blow to rural homes demand

BROADBAND speeds can affect how desirable a property is, according to a recent study

A survey by ISPreview.co.uk, a source of internet service provider information, has established that no matter how sought-after a property is, most people would not buy it if the best broadband speed it could achieve was just 1Mbps.

The survey, which questioned 721 people, also found that a little over half, 51 per cent, are willing to pay more for a house with faster broadband.

Almost two-thirds of those questioned said the minimum broadband speed they required would be "more than 4Mbps", with just one-fifth voting for 4Mbps itself and 10 per cent voting for 2Mbps, while just 6.6 per cent voted for 1Mbps.

Emphasis

ISPreview.co.uk's editor and founder, Mark Jackson, said: "Consumers clearly place a significant emphasis on broadband performance, so much so that an overwhelming majority would even be willing to give up on an almost perfect dream home in favour of a cosmetically less attractive one that received faster speeds."

"The results could have profound implications because many slower homes are often found in remote and rural locations that reside further from their local telephone exchange, hinting at the potential for a greater exodus into towns and cities where speeds are higher and prices lower."

According to Mr Jackson, the findings of its survey "highlights the importance of being able to deliver speeds of more than double the current Government target, which is committed to delivering a minimum 2Mbps broadband speed to everybody by 2012. This may now simply end up being too little, too late."



DEAL-BREAKER: It may be your dream home, but if broadband speeds are slow, you could have a job selling your property

Rise in prices 'likely to continue'

IN its latest survey of the housing market, the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says that UK house prices are likely to keep on rising for the short term.

The news, which was released this month, is a welcome boost for the economy, which failed to emerge from recession in the third quarter.

Meanwhile, according to the institute, the balance of surveyors reporting price rises rather than falls rose to 34 per cent, up from 20 per cent the previous month, and the strongest survey result in favour of rising prices in almost three years.

House price indices from the Nationwide and the Halifax have both reported rising house prices, but the Halifax has cautioned that the momentum was unlikely to continue since more homes were being put up for sale and this would, in turn, result in a slowdown in the demand for homes.

Jeremy Leaf, of the RICS, said: "Although the supply of property is beginning to pick up, it is still insufficient to keep pace with the increase in demand, which points to further price gains in the near term."

"Cheap money remains a critical prop for the

market and this is being reflected in the continuing appetite for finance from first-time buyers, despite the large deposits still being demanded by lenders."

In the meantime, over the last three months completed sales have continued to rise steadily to an average of 19 per surveyor, representing a slight rise on the previous quarter.

In other recent news, the British Retail Consortium revealed that retail sales in October had surged by an annual rate of 3.8 per cent, further fuelling hopes that a recovery was gathering pace.



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HOO



OIEO £175,000

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HOO



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Rainham: 01634 373531

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MOTORS NEWS



Peugeot's niche buster to take on the Qashqai

PEUGEOT'S new 3008 crossover has arrived to attack Nissan's highly successful Qashqai.

The French 'niche buster' blends MPV, SUV and family hatch styling and load-carrying versatility.

There is no actual 4x4 option for now, but a hybrid with electric motors powering the rear wheels is due later and there is a cost-effective £450 Grip Control option for now. This mimics the powers of a modest 4x4 or 'soft roader'.

Prices range from £15,995-21,895.



Renault proudly unleash their ultimate Mégane

SPORTING sub-brand Renaultsport has created the ultimate performance Mégane – at least for now.

The Mégane Renaultsport 250 has a 2.0-litre turbocharged engine and choice of two chassis: standard Sport and Cup, the latter featuring a limited slip differential.

The newcomer echoes the Mégane Coupé's sleek lines, but gains extended wheel arches for 18 or 19-inch wheels and a front bumper with wide air intake and F1-type aerodynamic blade.

Prices start at £21,995.



Superb extra capacity and luxury from Skoda

SKODA launches its most luxurious estate car in January – a version of the affordable Superb executive saloon/hatch.

The Czech marque says it has a class-leading load capacity of 1,865 litres – and a choice of three petrol and three diesel engines.

Buyers can also opt for a VW group twin-clutch gearbox – the auto that can be driven as a manual – with similar or better fuel economy. An electronically operated boot opening and panoramic sunroof are further options.



SMALL WONDER: Toyota's new IQ3 delivers more acceleration and power than the entry level IQ, but is £2,000 dearer and has higher CO2 emissions meaning £35 road tax a year

Toyota challenges your IQ

ROAD TEST TOYOTA IQ³

BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

fits the ethos of a small city runabout; auto changes in the original IQ feel more frantic.

Overall IQ attributes are impressive: it is just 30cms longer than the rival Smart ForTwo yet gains two seats.

However, the seat behind the driver is virtually useless. The front passenger seat is staggered close to the dashboard though, so an adult can sit behind – just.

So we have a 3+1-seat car rather than a full four-seater and the '+1' is really the boot as there is barely any space behind the rear seat-backs.

Nevertheless, the IQ shows masterly packaging and its low stance and wider track, largely overcomes pitching expected from such a short wheelbase car. The IQ drives and handles well for its size too.

Interior quality and trimming is superb, but could be funkier to attack the Smart.

On the other hand, this is the 'Lexus' of city cars and comes with no less than nine airbags – it may be small, but it is very safe.

Nevertheless, Motorline admits the 'Lexus' price tag can make some buyers turn to the Japanese brand's slightly bigger yet cheaper full four-seat Aygo.



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Deposit	£1700	Total amount payable £10694.73
Balance financed	£7000	Typical APR 9.9%



J G Burgess & Company
Ufton Lane, Sittingbourne ME10 1JB
Tel: 01795 423815



Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat 500 1.2 Pop mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions:
 Urban 44.1 (6.4) Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3) Combined 55.4 (5.1). CO2 119 g/km.

With Fiat i-deal you have the option to return the vehicle and not to pay the final payment, subject to the vehicle not having exceeded an agreed mileage (10,000 in this example) and being in good condition. Excess charges of 8p per mile may apply. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Auto Financial Services, PO Box 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms and conditions apply. Offer ends 31 December 2009. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time.

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06 55 IVECO STRALIS AS440S43
 TXP twin sleeper cab, 6x2 tractor
 unit, auto box, EM, EW, air con,
 276,160km, CPW inc. maintenance



04 04 IVECO CARGO 75E17
 TIPPER 14ft day cab, dual pass
 seat, EW, 77,600km

TRUCKS

06 06 IVECO Stralis AS440S43TXP

6x2 tractor unit, 317,890 km

06 56 IVECO Stralis AT190S27P

4x2 30ft chassis cab, 175,000 km

04 04 IVECO Cargo 180E24

26ft platform day cab, 133,600km

04 04 IVECO Cargo 75E17

14ft tipper day cab, 77,600 km

05 05 IVECO Cargo 75E17

20ft platform day cab, 149,000km

06 06 IVECO Cargo 75E17

20ft sleeper box,

rear roller shutter, 194,080km

08 58 IVECO Cargo 75E16

20ft box tuckaway t/lift, 12,968km

07 07 IVECO Cargo 75E17

20ft box column t/lift, 70,000km

06 56 IVECO Cargo 75E17

20ft box tuckaway t/lift, 70,893km

VANS

06 56 IVECO Daily 35S12 Van XLWB

3950 w/base, 35,669 miles

07 07 IVECO Daily 35S12 Van LWB

3300 w/base, 35,662 miles

05 05 IVECO Daily 35S12 Van LWB

3300 w/base, 59,000 miles

07 07 IVECO Daily 35S12 Van LWB

3300 w/base, 50,661 miles

04 54 IVECO Daily 35S12 Van XLWB

3950 w/base, 37,500 miles

08 08 FIAT Ducato 30 Van SWB

100MJT 2.2lt, 24,037 miles

07 07 FIAT Ducato 30 Van SWB

100MJT 2.2lt, 19,418 miles

09 58 FIAT Ducato 35 Van LWB

120MJT H/R, 400 miles

LIGHT COMMERCIALS

07 56 FIAT Scudo 1.9D Van LWB

twin side load doors,

37,384 miles

06 06 FIAT Doblo SX Van 1.9MJT

twin side load doors,

57,065 miles

OTHER MAKES

06 56 Nissan Cabstar 34.10

10ft dropside dual pass seat,

20,837 miles



08 08 FIAT DUCATO 30 SWB
 100MJT 2.2lt, dual pass seat,
 EW, b /head, remote lock,
 plyline, 24,035 miles



05 05 IVECO DAILY 35S12 VAN
 LWB 3300 w/base, dual pass
 seat, internal racking, remote
 lock, 59,000 miles

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Red, FSH, 1 Owner
30,000 Miles, £799
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£7
Lineage
p/wk

Lineage
Approx. 20 words

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01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback,
Metallic Red, Full Service
History, 1 Owner, Power
Steering, Elec
Windows, ABS,
30,000 Miles,
01234 567890

£9.50
3x1 Box Ad
p/wk

3x1
Max. 25 words



FORD FOCUS LX 1.6
01/Y, 5dr, Hatchback, Metallic Red, Full Service
1 Owner, Power Steering, Electric Windows
Sunroof, 30,000 Miles. Tel 01234 567890

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6x2
Max. 25 words

£22
6x2 photo
p/wk



Contact us on:
01303 817150

Email: advertising@kosmedia.co.uk

Deadline for advertisements for the newspapers: Friday midday

We can process your payment via telephone, fax, post or email using all major credit cards.



Photographs

You can send in a photograph via email to advertising@kosmedia.co.uk. If you are unsure please telephone one of our advisors on **01303 817150**.

Deadline for sending us photo advertisements is Friday at midday prior to Wednesdays publication.



What do you get for your money?

Advertisement in the 'Your Local' of your choice reaching thousands of adults across 'Your Local' area regularly each week.

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When you place a **private advertisement** with KOSMedia you get a unique combination of printed and online media within Britain's award-winning newspaper group and our fast-growing websites.

TO ADVERTISE: EMAIL US @: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk

TELEPHONE US ON: 01303 817040 FAX US ON: 01303 817004

- ACCOUNTANCY
- ADMINISTRATION, SECRETARIAL, PA
- AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, ENVIRONMENT
- ART AND DESIGN
- CATERING, HOSPITALITY
- CONSTRUCTION, ARCHITECTURE, SURVEYORS
- CUSTOMER SERVICE, CALL CENTRE
- DOMESTIC
- EDUCATION, TEACHER, SCHOOL
- ENGINEERING, MANUFACTURING, UTILITIES
- ESTATE AGENCY, PROPERTY

- GRADUATE, TRAINEES
- HEALTH AND SAFETY, SECURITY, DEFENCE
- HR, RECRUITMENT
- INDUSTRIAL, WAREHOUSE, FACTORY
- IT, INTERNET, TELECOMS
- INSURANCE, BANKING, FINANCE
- LEGAL
- LEISURE, TOURISM, TRAVEL
- MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY
- MANAGEMENT, SENIOR POSITIONS
- MARKETING, ADVERTISING

- MOTOR TRADE, DRIVER
- NOT FOR PROFIT, CHARITIES
- NURSING, MEDICINE, CARE WORK
- OTHER
- PRINT, PACKAGING, DISTRIBUTION
- PR, MEDIA, JOURNALISM
- PUBLIC SECTOR, SOCIAL SERVICES
- RETAIL, WHOLESALE, SALES
- SCIENTIFIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL, RESEARCH
- TRANSPORT, LOGISTICS, AVIATION

Senior & General Appointments 49-51

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progress within award
winning restaurant.
Please call 01622 737065

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Food Services Assistant (P/T) Maidstone
Excellent Customer Service Skills & Food Standards
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Apply to: Andrea Thorneycroft 01892 773611
andrea@candhfabric.co.uk or in store

Senior Lettings Negotiator

Belvoir Lettings Rochester are looking to recruit a full time experienced negotiator. An understanding of the lettings process is essential.

Excellent communication skills, sales & lettings back ground, basic IT literacy, and a full/clean driver's licence are essential.

Basic Salary will be £13K - £15K dependant upon experience - targeted earnings of £18K - £20K.

Applications in writing with a current C.V. by
30/11/2009 to:
Mr. P Huane
Belvoir Lettings Rochester
8 Victoria Street, Rochester, Kent ME1 1XH

ROCKDALE

are seeking a
PERSONAL & OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

who will also carry out Reception duties 1 day per week.
Must have good literacy, numeracy and IT skills.

35-37 hour week with some flexibility
Starting Salary £16,649 per annum (FTE)

Contact
Jay Drake, Personnel Manager on 01732 458762
for more details and an application pack

ADMINISTRATOR

Regent Development Ltd is a Chartered Building Company acting as a service provider to most major insurance companies for Domestic insurance claims.

We are looking for another Administrator to enhance our very busy Team. Work will involve booking in new jobs/scheduling materials and operatives, organising start dates and providing a comprehensive customer service to all Clients. On the job training will be supplied, however, Computer literacy is a must in Excel/Word and Outlook as is the ability to work on your own initiative once training is complete. A knowledge of Sage would be advantageous as would previous experience within the Domestic Insurance Claims industry.

The Company offers a salary between £13,000 to £17,000 per annum dependant upon experience/2 day holiday (including Bank Holidays)/bonus system/free Healthcare upon completion of 12 months employment.

CV's to: pat.slater@regentgroup.co.uk tel: 01322 626240
Or post to:

Pat Slater, Regent Development Ltd, Unit D4 Riverside Way, Dartford, Kent DA1 5BS

Skinner & Reeves

require

INSULATION SURVEYOR

Could suit someone with background in construction as required to carry out property surveys (training given) for our customers to ascertain suitability for cavity and loft insulation.

Commission also paid for new business generated from offering FREE or heavily-subsidised insulation on behalf of local Councils. Opportunities exist to promote other areas of the energy-saving division of our Company (established over 50 years).
Full driving licence required.

Apply by tel. 01892 825757 or
e-mailing john@skinnerandreeves.com



TONBRIDGE SCHOOL CENTRE FOR SPORTS & MEDIA

Tonbridge School's £11m Sports Centre provides exceptional facilities & leisure opportunities for our pupils, the community and Leisure Club Members. If you could be the driving force behind its continued success, then we would like to hear from you.

Operations Manager up to £21k

You will be fully experienced in sports/leisure centre operations, with proven team leadership. With an eye for detail and the very highest standards, you will be a self-starter, who can deliver whatever is thrown at you. As a member of the management team, you will thrive in a dynamic environment. Full-time, 40 hrs per week, all year round.

Closing date: Friday, 27th November

For an informal discussion, please contact Mat Parker, Centre Manager: 01732 304111

Further information, job description and an application form

can be found at: www.tonbridge-school.co.uk

Applications with a full CV to: John Nash, Personnel Manager

Tonbridge School, Tonbridge, TN9 1JP

Tel: 01732 304252 e-mail: jfn@tonbridge-school.org

CRB screening required

097534

Account Manager

businessforkent.co.uk

ASHFORD • £GOOD REMUNERATION

Exciting developments within the business portfolio at KOS Media has created the need to appoint a polished B2B sales professional.

Businessforkent.co.uk is the countywide business news source to provide daily and weekly breaking business stories, special reports, interviews and features through both its online news site and printed section in Kent on Saturday and Kent on Sunday

The new account manager will play a key role developing new business and maintaining existing relationships. The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of account management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, creating initial contact, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with good interpersonal skills, strong relationship-building capability and have excellent verbal and written communication ability. They will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within B2B media, will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media and ideally knowledge of the Kent marketplace.

KOS Media offers a good basic salary, alongside performance and target-related bonus, plus five weeks annual holiday.

If you believe you are a polished professional sales person looking for a challenging role, please submit your CV to Head of Department
christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk



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Account Manager

Heart Kent

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Heart in Kent is the county's largest radio station with nearly 400,000 listeners and we're over twice the size of our nearest commercial rivals. We're part of Global Radio, the UK's largest commercial radio company and we own stations like Capital FM, Classic FM and Heart.

A rare opportunity has arisen for an experienced media sales person to join one of Global Radio's most successful sales teams as an Account Manager. Based at Heart Kent's studios and offices in Whitstable, the position involves selling airtime, sponsorship and interactive properties to large clients across the county.

To apply for this position, please email your CV and covering letter to neil.webster@heart.co.uk quoting "Account Manager - Kent" in the subject field.

Closing date for applications: 18th November 2009

In the promotion of equal opportunities, Global Radio welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



Full Time Administrator

required for a training company based in Womenswold, just outside Canterbury. Duties to include typing, filing and general administration.

Monday - Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm.
Please telephone Jeanette on 01227 833000 or via email jeanette@amactraining.co.uk for further information
Closing date: 25th November 2009

Black Tie Foods Ltd**Sales People**

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Full training and vehicle provided.

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**Sure Start
Children's Centres**
Medway

Deanwood Primary School**Children and Family Services Co-ordinator****Grade: C2****Hours: 37 hours per week – 52 weeks a year****Location: Deanwood Primary School**

**Would you like to be part of the exciting launch of
Deanwood Primary School's new Children's Centre?**

We are seeking to recruit a Children and Families Co-ordinator to join our enthusiastic team as we prepare to open our brand new children's centre in April 2010.

We are looking for someone who is excited by new challenges and willing to lead a team implementing new projects for local families with young children and working in partnership with a range of local agencies.

Applicants should have:

- a Level 3 NVQ in child related and/or family care or a comparable relevant qualification.
- the skills to involve families with young children within a diverse community and become active in the community.
- a good knowledge of the local community.
- excellent communication and leadership skills.
- the ability to maintain systems and a wide range of records and written reports.
- the aspiration for excellence in services for children and families
- a commitment to equal opportunities in service delivery and employment.
- an enthusiasm to develop good working relationships with a wide range of partners, agencies and individuals.
- a desire to keep abreast of current developments, research and best practice, and to review, evaluate and implement change accordingly.

Informal visits to the school are most welcome.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

**To find out more about this exciting role or to arrange a visit please contact: Katy Sparkes, Acting Headteacher on
Tel: 01634 231901 or email office@deanwood.medway.sch.uk**

Closing Date: 19th November

Interview Date: 26th November



Saint George's
Church of England School
Humanities College

Meadow Road, Gravesend
Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082
Fax: 01474 561536

HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

CURRICULUM LEADER INCLUSION (SENCO)

TLR1b (£8,975)

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over-subscribed comprehensive school.

We are a school committed to inclusion and this is a key position to co-ordinate our inclusion work. The post offers the opportunity to have a real impact on the future life chances of our students.

We are looking for someone with:

- A thorough knowledge of a range of strategies for inclusion
- An ability to lead, inspire and motivate colleagues
- A commitment to discovering new ways to engage all students
- A commitment to raising the aspirations and achievement of students
- Good organisational and interpersonal skills
- Vision, energy and a positive approach

You will join the school at an exciting time, and will have a major contribution to the design of the new school. As part of the school's vision for continual improvement, you will develop programmes, procedures and policies to support students' needs, promote inclusion and advance the attendance and achievement of all students.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact us to arrange an informal visit and/or to request further details and an application form.

Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 04 December 2009

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EDUCATION SENSE
The Future Of Recruitment In Education

KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry.

We now have vacancies in our Production Department for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident and self-motivated team players, preferably with newspaper experience, who are seeking to further their career within the industry. The individual must have relevant Mac experience, including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator.

The position involves creating visuals for customers, ad setting, including property and motors, creating classified sections and make-up of pages to be sent to our printers.

The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department.

Hours will include a Saturday or Sunday.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:

**Personnel, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road
Smeeth, Kent TN25 6SR**

or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk

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After spectacular growth in 2008, and as the market leader in Holiday Add-ons, (Airport Parking, Hotels & Theatre/Theme Park breaks) we now employ 900 people across the UK & Germany with a turnover of £170 million... and we're still growing!

We are looking for dynamic individuals to join our expanding MI and Web teams at our Newingreen HQ. We can offer a competitive salary along with some great benefits.

Permanent Roles

MI Analyst - c£25,000
Web Developer - c£22,000
Email Template Builder - c£18,000

8-Week Contracts

Infrastructure Architect - c£400 per day
Program Manager - c£400 per day
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Interested? Please visit our recruitment website www.holidayextras.com/jobs for more information on the above roles. Additional roles coming soon. Closing dates vary per role. No recruitment agencies.



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MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Lecturer in Performing Arts Ref: P0651

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking for somebody to lead on the major new curriculum development of a Foundation Learning Tier offer in Performing Arts; working exclusively with learners at Level 1 and 2, in the fantastic new facilities at our Medway Campus. A simple commute from London, our new campus features a purpose built theatre, designed by the award winning company 'Stage Electrics', new dance and drama facilities and music, TV and radio recording studios. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Advanced Construction and Engineering Ref: P0655

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

We are looking to recruit an outstanding individual to teach and participate in the development of construction and engineering on a range of programmes. The successful candidate will possess qualities of reliability, have good communication skills and hold an HNC/HND/Foundation degree or higher in Construction and/or Engineering. Previous experience with the industry is essential. The ideal candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Access Lecturer Ref: P0440

Salary: £23,740 - £28,542 pro rata

10 hours per week

We are looking for an exceptional individual to teach at our Maidstone campus on the Access to Humanities and Teaching programme. The candidate will specialise in English Literature and Language and also act as Course Tutor to a cohort of adult students. The successful candidate will hold or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. This post will commence from January 4th 2010.

Lecturer in Beauty Ref: P0652

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

The College is currently looking to recruit a dynamic and enthusiastic Lecturer in the Beauty Department to deliver high quality training and assessment procedures to full and part time learners. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Hair Ref: P0653

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

We are looking to recruit passionate individuals to teach assess and contribute to the development of Hair Design programmes. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and should hold or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Lecturer in Catering Ref: P0654

Salary: £20,700 - £26,395

We are looking to appoint a passionate individual to teach on a variety of practical catering qualifications, facilitating student learning and achievement. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have or be willing to work towards a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Learning Support Facilitator Ref: P0666

Salary: £15,225 - £17,750 pro rata

25 hours per week

We are looking for a passionate and patient candidate to provide support to students and lecturers across all College departments in the implementation of additional needs to students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities including behavioural issues.

Further Education Sports Co-Ordinator Ref: PR029

Salary: £20,368 - £26,255 pro rata

15 hours per week (Medway and Maidstone Campus)

We are looking for an individual with a proven track record in Sports Development and the Further Education sector, to play a key role in increasing participation towards the 5 hour offer in sport and physical activity for young people aged 16-19yrs. This will entail the coordination and further development of the college's pathways and support, contributing to the development of the healthy college award and the cross-college activity programme, including outdoor pursuits and active leisure initiatives. As part of the Sports team, the ideal candidate will have excellent communication and leadership skills. Experience of working with young people and liaising with a wide range of organisations including schools within the three school sports partnerships, sports clubs and sports governing bodies is desirable.

Closing date: 20 November 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk.

For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine).

In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
- All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
- All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
- Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
- Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
- Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
- A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owner for that advertising.
- No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
- Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
- KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential loss suffered by the advertiser.
- Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
- A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
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Picture: IGOR KUPCO



ICE COOL: Peter Vaisanen scored twice

Mos thunder home to claim another easy win

NOLAN Boike made an instant impact on his Invicta Dynamos debut, scoring twice to set up a comfortable victory on the road.

The result fell just short of the 10-0 thrashing dished out by the Mos a week earlier, but it was more than enough to keep Kevin Parrish's side top of the National League South.

The game saw the return of Ryan Giles but Boike grabbed the attention with an encouraging display. The highly-rated American forward signed as the club's second import player last week following Johan Stenvall's departure and took just 18 minutes to open his account.

The game had been evenly contested up to

ICE HOCKEY

Milton Keynes Thunder 1

Invicta Dynamos 8

that point, but Boike ensured the visitors went in at the first break 1-0 up with a neat finish.

Milton Keynes remained difficult to break down in the second period. Laurence Billing made it 2-0 three minutes after the resumption, before the game settled down again, with neither side giving much away.

Boike's second of the night made it 3-0 going into the final period, when the Mos were finally able to take control of the game.

Nicky Lewis and Andy Smith scored in the first 90 seconds after the break to put the result beyond doubt, despite a consolation from the home side.

Peter Vaisanen maintained his impressive goalscoring form with goals either side of Smith's second to add gloss to the scoreline.

This weekend the Mos have a double header road trip, visiting Peterborough on Saturday and Haringey on Sunday.

RUGBY

Picture: IGOR KUPCO



WINNER: Glen Wadsworth's drop goal won a tight game for Medway against East Grinstead

Medway battle to a narrow victory

Medway 13 East Grinstead 10

MEDWAY continue to impress in London 3 South East after claiming another scalp on Saturday to end East Grinstead's winning streak.

A week after becoming the first side to take points from Charlton Park, Taff Gwilliam's side battled to a narrow victory to halt the in-form visitors and move joint third in the table.

Medway were forced to play into a strong headwind in the first half and their opponents used it to their advantage, penning the hosts into their own 22.

East Grinstead took the lead with a penalty but were frustrated by some clever tactics from Medway, who attempted to hang on to possession for as long as possible. It worked until the half hour mark, when an error led to a turnover which saw the visitors score a converted try to go in 10-0 up at the break.

With the elements in their favour after the break, Medway came roaring back. A Glen Wadsworth penalty reduced the arrears almost immediately before East Grinstead adopted the same tactics as their opponents, by seeking to deny them possession at every opportunity.

A mistake again proved the difference as Medway counter-attacked quickly and the ball worked its way out to Rob Ellis, who dived the last tackle before offloading to Matt Wadhams to score under the posts. Wadsworth converted to level the scores.

The decisive score came six minutes from time, when Wadsworth scored a drop goal to seal the points.

Medway have a break before visiting unbeaten leaders Heathfield & Waldron on November 28.

PLEASE SEND YOUR SPORTS STORIES TO SPORTS EDITOR GLENN PEARSON AT glenn.pearson@kosmedia.co.uk



Picture: ADRIAN LINE

BATTLE: Matt Solly (in red) scraps in midfield during Chatham's sorry defeat to Corinthian Casuals on Saturday, which came days after a thrilling cup win against Cray Wanderers

Inconsistent Chats casually give away three home points

FOOTBALL

■ BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Chatham Town 1

Corinthian-Casuals 3

CHATHAM Town's Jekyll and Hyde season continued as they meekly handed over three points to Corinthian-Casuals just days after pulling off a cup upset.

David Hall's late goal did nothing to mask a poor display on Saturday as the Chats missed chances up front and gave away sloppy goals at the back. Frustratingly for the home faithful it came four days after a superb 2-0 League Cup win against Ryman Premier side Cray Wanderers.

Inconsistency has been Town boss Alex

O'Brien's biggest irritation since taking over this summer and once more he was left bemused by a flat performance.

"It was the old Chatham Town again," he said. "Playing bigger clubs we are able to raise our game but then we come up against a smaller one and go back into our comfort zone, you can't afford to do that."

"We had chances but at the minute we are a side where if we score first we do well, but if we fall behind we're just chasing our tails. We haven't learned how to deal with that. It's just annoying because we get ourselves into a good position and then go out and play like that."

Maidstone Road is a challenging surface at the best of times but it was made all the more difficult by the foul weather on Saturday.

What fluency there was in the first half came from the hosts, who opened up their opponents on several occasions.

Brendon Cass came the closest with an effort which cannoned back off the upright, before missing another good chance altogether. Richard Avery also had a shot well saved, while Byron Walker could not put the finishing touch to two good runs.

The Chats got away with missing several

Chatham starting XI



Subs used: Ascheri (Walker 65), Barnett (Scott 80)

gilt-edged opportunities against Cray, but they were not as lucky on Saturday. Corinthian took their chances well but O'Brien was unhappy with the defending for their first two goals – a free header and a long range effort which was not closed down.

With Chatham committing more men forward they were stung on the counter-attack for the third goal, before Hall finished off a goal-mouth scramble late on.

The Chats, who visit Andy Sinton's Fleet Town on Saturday, were in action at Whyteleafe last night, log on to www.yourmedway.co.uk for the details.

Tumbler of Brandy puts wind up Oldham

FOOTBALL

BY DAVID PRITCHARD

Gillingham 1

Weston pen 60

Oldham Athletic 0

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson was delighted with the way his side applied themselves in a hard-fought victory against Oldham in difficult conditions on Saturday.

The game was played in high winds which made it difficult for both sides, but the Gills did enough to take maximum points thanks to Curtis Weston's second half penalty.

Stimson was particularly pleased to win despite missing suspended captain Barry Fuller and top scorer Simeon Jackson, who was away on international duty with Canada, plus long-term injury duo Simon King and Danny Jackman.

He said: "They are four players who would be in our team every single week so it was a big task because we know Oldham are decent away from home and they're not shy about putting their foot in and making it a physical battle. We had to stand up to that and I thought we did well.

"The circumstances can be a bit of a lottery but to be fair to us we played well, created a couple of good chances and could have maybe nicked another goal."

The wind was so severe it worked an adver-



LIVEWIRE: Febian Brandy was a constant menace to the Oldham defence on Saturday and played a key role in the only goal, winning a penalty which Curtis Weston converted

tising hoarding on the roof of the Gordon Road Stand loose. Kick-off was delayed while the fire brigade made it secure, but when play got underway both sides opted for cautious 4-5-1 formations.

As in his debut a week earlier Febian Brandy was impressive and quickly worried

Gillingham City starting XI



Subs used: Oli (Lewis 83)

the Oldham back four with his pace. The striker, on loan from Manchester United, had the first clear chance on 25 minutes, but his close range shot was well blocked.

Weston came closer nine minutes before the break when his delicate curling effort from 20 yards hit the crossbar.

Playing into the wind in the second half, the Gills won a penalty on the hour. Kevin Maher's clever pass found Brandy in the penalty area and the striker tumbled theatrically under pressure from Sean Gregan. After a lengthy delay Weston converted for his sixth goal of the season.

Andy Barcham almost doubled the lead minutes later but his 20-yard effort was brilliantly tipped on to the crossbar by Darryl Flahavan.

Gillingham ran the clock down maturely, much to the visitors' frustration as they picked up a string of bookings. It could have been worse as Weston burst through four minutes from time, only to be brought down by Reuben Hazell. The home crowd demanded a straight red card, but the referee opted for a booking.

The victory lifted the Gills up to 15th in League One ahead of Saturday's visit to Bristol Rovers.



TEAM TALK

with Gills skipper
BARRY FULLER

Fear the weather and you'll have a stinker

WHEN the weather is as bad as it was on Saturday often the result can be decided by whoever fancies it the most.

If you get sidetracked thinking about the wind and rain then you'll play badly, but I thought everyone stood up well to the challenge.

It was the sort of game I love to be involved in but unfortunately I had to sit in the stands to serve a suspension. I hate watching games like that, being in the changing room beforehand you just want to get out there and get stuck in.

The most important thing was the result because we really needed the three points to stay clear of the bottom four. In conditions like that it's easy for the ball to be in the air all the time but at times we played some really good stuff and I think we deserved to win.

We caused them a lot of problems and at the other end they only had a couple of long range shots which we dealt with comfortably.

Febian Brandy was impressive again. As a defender you hate players running at you with pace and he took on both their centre-halves for 90 minutes. He chased everything down, didn't give them time to settle and was too quick when it mattered to draw the foul for the penalty.

The result showed the strength we've got in our squad now. Last year if we had four or five players missing we would've probably looked a lot weaker and maybe lost the game, but now we have players capable of coming in and holding their own.

This game and the win against Southend has restored our confidence and means we go to Bristol this weekend with high hopes of taking something from the game.

LEAGUE TABLES

COCA-COLA LEAGUE TWO

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Leeds United	15	11	3	1	+21	36
2 Charlton Athletic	16	9	5	2	+13	32
3 Colchester United	16	8	5	3	+13	29
4 Milton Keynes Dons	16	9	2	5	+1	29
5 Norwich City	16	8	4	4	+10	28
6 Huddersfield Town	16	8	3	5	+19	27
7 Millwall	16	6	7	3	+10	25
8 Bristol Rovers	16	8	1	7	-2	25
9 Hartlepool United	16	6	5	5	+2	23
10 Walsal	16	6	5	5	+1	23
11 Swindon Town	15	5	7	3	-1	22
12 Yeovil Town	16	5	6	5	-1	21
13 Southend United	16	5	5	6	+1	20
14 Oldham Athletic	16	5	5	6	-3	20
15 Gillingham	16	5	3	8	-3	18
16 Brentford	16	4	6	6	-5	18
17 Exeter City	16	4	6	6	-6	18
18 Carlisle United	16	4	5	7	-4	17
19 Brighton & Hove Albion	16	4	5	7	-7	17
20 Leyton Orient	16	4	4	8	-12	16
21 Stockport County	16	3	5	8	-13	14
22 Southampton (-10)	16	5	7	4	+5	12
23 Tranmere Rovers	16	3	1	12	-23	10
24 Wycombe Wanderers	16	1	5	10	-16	8

RYMAN DIVISION ONE SOUTH (TOP HALF)

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Worthing	15	11	0	4	+16	33
2 Folkestone Invicta	13	9	3	1	+11	30
3 Godalming Town	13	8	2	3	+10	26
4 Walton & Hersham	13	7	3	3	+8	24
5 Chatham Town	15	7	3	5	0	24
6 Fleet Town	13	7	2	4	+10	23
7 Mersham	14	7	2	5	+2	23
8 Croydon Athletic	12	6	4	2	+18	22
9 Corinthian-Casuals	15	6	3	6	+1	21
10 Metropolitan Police	15	4	7	4	+6	19
11 Sittingbourne	12	5	4	3	+4	19

KENT LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	D	L	Gd	Pt
1 Faversham Town	11	10	1	0	+24	31
2 Erith & Belvedere	10	7	0	3	+5	21
3 Beckenham Town	10	6	1	3	+11	19
4 Herne Bay	10	6	1	3	+5	19
5 Sevenoaks Town	11	5	3	3	+6	18
6 Erith Town	10	4	3	3	+2	15
7 Greenwich Borough	10	4	3	3	+2	15
8 Sporting Bengal United	10	4	1	5	-10	13
9 Tunbridge Wells	10	2	6	2	+1	12
10 Hythe Town	7	3	2	2	+11	11
11 Fisher	13	3	2	8	-11	11
12 Northon Sports	10	3	1	6	-5	10
13 Hornscliffe	11	3	1	7	-7	10
14 Deal Town	9	2	3	4	-8	9
15 Corinthian	7	0	3	4	-11	3
16 Lordswood	9	0	3	6	-15	3

FIXTURES (Saturday): Coc-Cola football League One: Bristol Rovers v Gillingham; Ryman division One South: Fleet Town v Chatham Town; Kent League Premier Division: Lordswood v Deal Town

Maher knuckles down to keep first team place

FOOTBALL

KEVIN Maher is hoping for more regular first team football after making his first start in more than a month on Saturday.

The 33-year-old has only been used sporadically this season after signing in the summer, starting in less than a third of the Gills' league games so far.

Maher admitted it had been a frustrating few weeks but is trying to put it in perspective.

He said: "It's always hard because you want to play every week, but sometimes you have to go through that. You have to keep working hard. It happens to everyone but it's how you respond. You have to knuckle down because when your chance comes you've hopefully got to take it."

Gillingham now turn their attentions to Saturday's game at Bristol Rovers, which offers another chance for the team to end their awful run away from home. The side have picked up just one point on their travels this season but Maher believes the qualities on display last Saturday will stand them in good stead this weekend.

He said: "I think the way we played showed we're resilient at times. I think we've got to take that into the away games. Then there's no reason why we can't get a result. I think



OLD HEAD: Kevin Maher helped grind out victory

we're getting close, the Southend game [a 1-0 defeat] we should have got something.

"It's always a tough game in Bristol but there's no reason why we can't take this into Saturday and look to get something."

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Gills boss Mark Stimson looks ahead to a critical run of league fixtures



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